

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Stewardship Emphasis 2

October 5th & 8th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."



Ephesians 2:8



Image: *"²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:20-21)*

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 "Talents—The Joy of Investing Yourself"

Things are not always what they seem—including *Jesus' parables*. What is the point of the story of the talents? The easy answer is that Jesus wants us to use what is precious for his work and that means taking a risk. We know from God's Word that Jesus took on the risk of the cross for us. Heb. 12:2 notes, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* As a result, Jesus calls us to be faithful and follow him. When Jesus returns as our Master, whether that is on the Day of Glory or the last hour of our own lives on this earth, we shall be gladdened to hear him say to us, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness"* (Matt. 25:21 & 23). Like the faithful servant and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are able to do what we know Jesus wants us to do with our abilities, even though it means taking a risk.

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)

Grace Lutheran School Choir (10:30am Only) “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

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

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 118:22-24; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively*)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!
The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

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.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;*
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever!

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. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 5:1-7*

(The Lord planted His people to be His vineyard, but they produced wild grapes worthy only of judgment.)

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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 3:4b-14*

(“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God.”)

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

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

Alleluia Verse for the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

“Alleluia. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Alleluia” (Matthew 21:42b)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 21:33-46*

(The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.)

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

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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 “God’s Talents” (Matt. 25:14-30) 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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “Talents—The Joy of Investing Yourself” (Matt. 25:14-30)

Sermon Text— Matt. 25:14-30

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants^[a] and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents,^[b] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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

-543 What Wondrous Love Is This (vs. 1-4)

-783 Take My Life and Let It Be (vs. 1-6)

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 806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart (vs. 1)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



✿Altar Flowers✿

Altar flowers this week are given by *Sharon Iseli*, as she celebrates her birthday on October 13th!!!
Happy birthday Sharon!

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); **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) coworker of Chris Cotter; and **Rose Adams** (healing & strength); **Stephanie** (pregnant with twins); **Doug Klipfel** (procedure on his ear); and **Rich** (hospitalized in ICU). **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>	Keith Goodle	Greg Nowakowski	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Chris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Tuskowski	Marlene Voss	Janine/Marlene
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		Claire Gamroth	Marty Taggatz
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Nick Norton	Ron Savarino
	Lance Kopperud	Evie Gamroth	Lowell Johnson
			Eddie Taggatz

October '23 Stewardship Series for Grace Lutheran Church Oak Creek: *"Bringing Out the Best"*

-Sunday October 8th, 2023—*Talents: The Joy of Investing Yourself* (Matthew 25:14–30)

-Sunday October 15th, 2023—*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.

USHERS NEEDED—We are in need of Ushers for our Thursday evening 6:30pm and our 8am Sunday morning worship services. If you are interested in helping usher, we will ensure that you will be trained for this position. Please contact our Elder Eric Kamprath if you're interested. He can be reached at: eric@kamprath.net. Thank you for prayerfully considering taking on this responsibility to assist our members during our worship services. There is also a sheet in the narthex for you to sign up.

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 in the school. 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.

SOCKTOBER HAS BEGUN!!! The glove said to the sock, “*Looks like you could use a hand!*” SOCKTOBER begins October 1 Yes, we can use a hand to fill the bin full of socks for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. New or gently used socks in all sizes, men’s, women’s, and children’s are needed. Look for the designated sock bin in the narthex!

The ladies of Rise and Sonshine are eager to begin this study this month on Saturday October 14th and 28th, 8am-9:30am, at school. Ladies of Grace, you are invited to study God’s Word with your fellow sisters in Christ! The book is available thru Concordia Publishing House and Amazon. Feel free to contact Jennifer Olen (olenjennifer@aol.com) with questions.



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 \$23,511.63 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 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Creed—First Article

Verse of the week: Psalm 19:1, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 34:8-22

Hymn of the week: (LSB 505) "Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay" (stanza 1—"Triune God")

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Which Is the Greatest Commandment? —Matthew 22:34-46

Monday— The Budding of Aaron’s Rod—Numbers 16:41—17:13

Tuesday— Moses Strikes the Rock—Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)

Wednesday— The Bronze Serpent—Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9

Thursday— Balaam’s Donkey (Part 1)—Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38

Friday— Balaam’s Donkey (Part 2)—(survey ch. 23 and 24) 24:10-13 (14-19) 25

Saturday—The Lord Promises Salvation to Jacob—Genesis 28:10-17

“These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.” *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – 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 "Whatever and Wherever, Thank You, Lord!" Guest Speaker: Pastor Keith Haberstock. "The Lord is my Shepherd..." That's how the 23rd Psalm begins. It goes on to describe the ways in which our Good Shepherd leads, comforts, and protects the sheep of His flock. Every line gives us a reason to be thankful. (Psalm 23) **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

Stewardship Minute— By God's grace in Jesus, we live to serve Him rather than ourselves. We understand that our purpose in life is to serve our heavenly Father. Jesus tells us that, when we serve others, we are serving Him. *"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me"* (Matthew 25:40). When we help and serve others, we become channels through which God works. We are His hands, feet, and mouth. God has made us for the purpose of doing good and serving others.

**GOD'S STEWARDS ARE IN
THE WORLD BUT NOT OF
THE WORLD.**

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).



LWML SWD Zone 1 Fall Rally- Saturday October 21

9am-11am
Trinity Lutheran- Downtown
1046 N. 9 th Street
Milwaukee

Program: "Out of the Ashes" Trinty Tour
Ingathering Items for Pathfinders – Serving homeless youth
Travel size personal hygiene products: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes,
Kleenex, and hand sanitizer.

Carpool will leave Grace Lutheran School at 8:30am
Any questions-please contact Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740

Growing in Grace
September 28th & October 1st, 2023

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2157.00	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$828.42	
<i>Missions</i>	\$110.00	<i>Attendance</i> 111
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Communed</i> 86
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Total</i>	\$3095.42	

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	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		10:30 am	Divine Worship
Monday	10/2	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
		6:30 pm	Grief Share Group
Tuesday	10/3	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
		6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	10/4	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
		6:30 pm	All Boards Meeting
Thursday	10/5	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Sunday	10/8	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
		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	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

