

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Stewardship Emphasis 3

October 12th & 15th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."



Ephesians 2:8



Image: ⁴“At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison...⁵Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:3, 5-6)

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 “Time: Maximizing Minutes for the Master”

The past two weeks the focus has been “*bringing out the best*” as God's stewards, or managers, of treasure and talents. Yet some of us consider time even more valuable. Why? Because when you spend or lose money, you will usually earn more. When it comes to talents, often you may be able to work hard to develop a new ability or skill. But each of us receives the same amount of time every day—24 hours. For some of us, that makes it the most valuable of the three. Yet there's hope when you and I are not “*bringing out the best*” with how we spend the time God gives us for this life. That is because *Jesus came at the right time to redeem us.* (Gal 4:4-5) To *redeem* means to “*buy back*,” like buying slaves from an evil master to set them free. Jesus came from eternity—and entered our time through his birth. In fact, he came at exactly the right time. He kept the Law of Moses perfectly which we, by our sinful natures, couldn't. Then our Lord went to the cross to pay the price of our sinfulness. Jesus made it possible for us to become God's children. We are forgiven, even of those times when we waste time or use it selfishly. We are freed from guilt, given a fresh start as God's children to spend our time for God's purposes.

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 797 Praise the Almighty (vs. 1, 4-5)

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 (*Isaiah 61:10; antiphon: Psalm 146:2, read responsively*)

I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

I will greatly rejoice | in the LORD;*

my soul shall exult | in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of sal- | vation;*

he has covered me with the robe of | righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful | headdress,*
and as a bride adorns herself | with her jewels.

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.

I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

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 invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; 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 25:6-9*

(On this mountain the Lord will make a feast for all peoples and will cast off the veil of death forever.)

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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 4:4-13*

("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.")

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and

heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens 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 for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost “*Alleluia. The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” Let the one who hears say, “Come.” Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. Alleluia.*” (Revelation 22:17)

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

(Many are called; few are chosen.)

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

¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing

of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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 Children at All Times” (Eccl. 3:10-13) 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 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Maximizing Minutes for the Master” (Col. 4.3-6)

Sermon Text Colossians 4:3-6

³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best

use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

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 spiritually 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

-617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (vs. 1-3)

-722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (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 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (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 Patrick and John Manoil
In Memory of Norma Manoil's Birthday

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); 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); and Rose Adams (healing & strength); Stephanie (pregnant

with twins); **Doug Klipfel** (procedure on his ear); **Katie Bailey Klinge** (cancer); **Nelson Durant** (hip surgery); and **Andora** (surgery for cancer.)

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 and friends of **Betty Jo Reetz**, a friend of Jennifer Mendez our Kindergarten Teacher, the family of **Casondra**, coworker of Chris Cotter, and **Rich Moser**, friend of Tony Mirenda, all who were recently called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, we pray for the family and friends of, Betty Jo Reetz, Rich Moser, and Casondra as they mourn their deaths. Receive our humble thanks for all Your mercies granted to Betty Jo, Rich, and Casondra during their earthly lives, especially for calling them by the Gospel and sustaining them in the true faith until their departure. Comfort those who mourn Betty Jo, Rich, and Casondra's deaths with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a happy reunion in heaven. Help us to remember that we are mortal, that we may ever prepare ourselves to fall asleep in faith and finally receive the glory promised to all who trust in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!!! We rejoice with Elizabeth Kamprath & Hunter Murphy, who were united in Holy Matrimony on Friday October 13th!!! We pray: Heavenly Father, Your Son used the joy of the marriage feast as a sign of the joy of Your kingdom. We humbly ask that you would be with *Elizabeth & Hunter*, whom You have united as husband and wife, and sanctify them with Your love. Bless their marriage Lord, and bring us all at last to the joy of feasting with You in Your eternal kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com.

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Grag Nowakowski	Keith Goodle	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szefflinski	Glen Dotson	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	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: "Bringing Out the Best"

-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.

The Fellowship Committee will be having a Packer Party

Who: The Fellowship Committee

What: Packer Party

When: Nov. 5th--game starts at noon

Where: School

We will be supplying ham and rolls, hot dogs, and buns, and water, we ask that you bring sides, dips or desserts to share, please bring your own non alcoholic beverages. You may bring lawn chairs if they would be more comfortable than our chairs for the game. children over 12 are welcome to attend with their parents, but we don't have a place or the people to take care of younger children. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex at Church. There will also be a free will offering at this event... Watch for some of our upcoming events---- Jan. 20th Bingo ---March 16th Tea Party --other events to follow...

Your 3rd Quarter giving statements are available in the narthex. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship! We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and assist with communion during service, and straighten up the church after service. Lay readers proclaim God's word to the congregation by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the worship service. If you are able and willing to help in either of these capacities, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church -- your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to approach the elder on duty with any questions you may have about these opportunities.

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

Stephen Ministry Training at Grace—Are you interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ’s love and care to people during a time of need. Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times in life. After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists. We are going to begin a new training session for Stephen Ministers

in February of 2024. The training is scheduled to take place on Sunday evenings from 6-8:30pm starting February 11th and ending June 23rd. (We will take off for Easter Monday and Memorial Day). If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, you can contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-423-0010. Look for a special informational meeting between our Sunday morning worship services in December where you will have more information to learn about training to become a Stephen Minister at Grace! To learn more about Stephen Ministry you can also go to this website: www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/917

Grief Share Group starting in October at Grace Lutheran School

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? At the end of October we are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group will meet on Monday evenings starting October 30th from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday February 12th. We will take off December 25th and January 1st. There will also be a special lesson on "Surviving the Holidays," for those grieving the death of loved ones, which will take place on Monday November 20th. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register: go to the website: www.griefshare.org and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

Worship Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home Volunteers Needed--Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willow Crest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. We typically meet at Willow Crest at 9:45am to get prepared for the service and are done by 10:45am. You may end up leading a worship service at Willow Crest once a month, or every 5 to 6 weeks, depending on how many people are willing to volunteer. We would also provide you with resources to help you lead worship services at Willow Crest, and if you would like to shadow someone to see how the worship services are conducted, we can show you how it is done. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-719-2257.

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 \$24,511.63 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 20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Creed—First Article

Verse of the week: 1 Timothy 1:15, "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 84

Hymn of the week: (LSB 745) "In God, My Faithful God" (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Jesus Heals the Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8

Monday— The Sin of Peor—Numbers 25:1-18

Tuesday— Joshua Is Ordained to Take Moses' Place—Numbers 27:12-23

Wednesday— Moses Reminds the People of God’s Law—Dt. 1:1a, 3; 5:1-11a, 12, 16-22

Thursday— Moses Warns the People Against Rebelling—Deuteronomy 5:32—6:25

Friday— The Lord Will Raise Up a Prophet Like Moses—Deuteronomy 18:9-22

Saturday—The Call of God’s Grace—Isaiah 55:1-9

“For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: ‘Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28). God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!” *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 "Help the World Rejoice" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A musical about a choir of nuns led by a lounge singer provides the setting for Dr. Michael Zeigler's message,

based on Psalm 80. **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— Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that our blessings are gifts from God, and we want to show our gratitude for these gifts by using them in ways that accomplish His purposes and extend His kingdom. Therefore, we are eager to share God’s grace by serving others: joining committees, activities and groups in church; witnessing and giving. Being transformed by the renewing of our minds, we become more selective with the ways we spend our time, talents, and money. As we grow in our understanding of Biblical stewardship, we become more intentional and focused on using our lives and resources in ways that help us live as God pleasing stewards.

GOD’S GIFTS ARE TO BE USED ACCORDING TO HIS WILL.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).



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” Trinity 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

October 12th & October 15th, 2023

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2151.25	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1283.68	
<i>Missions</i>	\$10.00	<i>Attendance</i> 161
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Communed</i> 98
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$20.00	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$41.00	
Total	\$3505.93	

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	10/8	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Divine Worship
Monday	10/9	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	10/10	7:00 am 9:30 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	10/11	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	10/12	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Sunday	10/15	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
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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	414-762-8869
	ECC	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
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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

