

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 16th & 19th, 2023



"By His Grace you are saved through faith."

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "Day of wrath, O day of mourning! See fulfilled the prophet's warning, Heav'n and earth in ashes burning. To the rest Thou didst prepare me On Thy cross; O Christ, upbear me! Spare, O God, in mercy spare me!" (TLH 607:1, 19)

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 *"The End-Time Life, A Gospel-Centered Life"*

This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should *"encourage one another and build one another up"* (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! The Good News—that our Savior will return on that Day—is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

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 1, pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vs. 1-2)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively)

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*

for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*

I ponder the work | of your hands.

I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

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.

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Kyrie LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast LSB 155

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 *Zephaniah 1:7-16*

(A day of wrath is coming.)

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be

plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

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

Gradual (*Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5, read responsively*)

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*

in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle Lesson 1 *Thessalonians 5:1-11*

(Encourage one another to live in God’s light.)

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

- C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost "*Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. Alleluia.*" (Matthew 25:29a)

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

(God gives talents, expecting them to be used for His purposes.)

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

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

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

Apostles’ Creed LSB 159

- 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 “No Surprises” (1 Thess. 5:1-11) 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 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near (vs. 1-4, 7)

Sermon “Not of Darkness” (1 Thess. 5:1-11)

Offertory LSB 159

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160*

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the

all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

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

**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 162*

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 163*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

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

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

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

1. *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)*
2. *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)*
3. *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)*
4. *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)

-563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (vs. 1-6)

Stand

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

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

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 166*

- A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of sins forgiven, so that with joy we may share Your love each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Benediction *LSB 166*

- 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 829 Christ the Eternal Lord (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



Altar Flowers provided by: Lori Kachelmeier in Memory of her brother Randy

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Pastor Bill Wurm (Alzheimer's 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; Cindy 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) friend of Jill Nowack; 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); Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); Rachel Goodle (prayers for God's strength); Brooke Bzdawka (blood clot); Daniel Abelt (cancer); and Alyssa (healing & strength); Michael Abelt (healing & strength); Jerry Svcek (in rehab following major surgery & stroke); Stephanie (pregnant

with twins); **Katie Bailey Klinge** (cancer); **Andora** (surgery for cancer); **Sabrina** (cancer); **Lori Jablonski** (cancer) and **Jessie Marshall** (healing & strength) friend of Cathy Weeks; **Mike Zanardi** (healing & strength); **Mark Roettgen** (lung biopsy); **Paige** (God's help & comfort), Emilee; and **Isaac** (healing from a broken ankle), **Heather** (cancer), **Bob Morgan** (healing and strength); **Steve Benzie** (stomach pain, hernia); **John Curinie** (cancer) & **Craig** (stem cell transplant); **Dianna Abelt** (healing and strength); **Sara Keno** (seizures); **Dale Schmidt** (Huntington's Disease); **Carl Smith** (thanksgiving for being cancer free); and **Sharon Russell** (recovery from a fall).

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 11/16 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11/19 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 11/19 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Greg Nowakowski	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Miranda	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Pieper	Janine Pieper	Janine Pieper
	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elder	Elder	Brilee Simmons
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Henry Tindall	Archie Gulizia
	Connie Roettgen	Benjamin Tindall	Drew Salzer
			Gabby Salzer

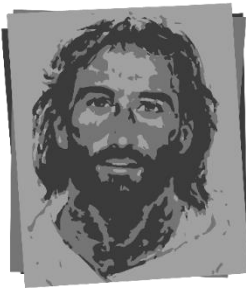
Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship! We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and 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.

November Grace Lutheran Church Culvers Night!!! The next Culver's Night for Grace will be on Tue. November 21, 2023 at: Culver's Oak Creek 7841 S. Howell Avenue from 10 A.M. – 10 P.M. Please present a voucher when ordering and Culver's will donate 10% of the total to the ministries of Grace. (*The vouchers will be out in the narthex at Church next week*). Thank you for supporting our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center community!!!

Choir at Grace

Choir practice is on Thursday evenings in the church following worship. Please consider joining our church choir. Music has a unique way of connecting us with God, and being a part of the choir is a beautiful opportunity to share your voice and your faith. Whether you're an experienced singer or someone who simply loves to sing, we welcome you with open arms. Martin Luther once said, "*He who sings, prays twice.*" Please contact Kathy Kolb, our Choir Director, for further details if you are interested in joining our church's choir.



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2023

“Jesus: The Son of David, the Son of Abraham”

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the last Thursday in November and the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. There is great interest in genealogies today. In the past, such interest was usually confined to one dutiful family member who would gather all the information together and begin reconstructing the family tree. However, genealogy websites have simplified such work so that even the most casual observers are able to explore their family histories and better understand their pasts. The scientific advances of DNA are also allowing people to explore more than just one or two branches of the family tree and also to understand how all the generations of the past have come together in each unique, individual family member. In these weeks of Advent, the sermons will help us unpack the significance of Jesus' genealogy and how God was at work weaving his plan of salvation throughout the history of his chosen people—*as he reveals in the Old Testament all the way through Joseph and Mary*. Here is the order of holiday worship for the coming month, we hope to see you in worship as we receive Christ's gifts of Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation. Please note, there will be no Thursday night worship service on Thursday December 28th.

Wednesday November 22nd 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service with Communion— “Why Christians Give Thanks” (Luke 17:11–19)

Thursday Nov. 30th 6:30pm–Advent Midweek 1— “Jesus: The Son of David” (Matthew 1:1, 6)

Thursday Dec. 7th 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 2— “Jesus: The Son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1–2)

Sunday December 10th --Special Trim the Tree Service 2nd Sunday in Advent—Sunday worship services of 8am and 10:30am...

Thursday Dec. 14th 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 3— “Jesus: The Son of Scandal” (Matthew 1:1, 3, 5–6)

Thursday Dec. 21st 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 4—“Jesus: The Son of Joseph” (Matthew 1:16)

Sunday December 24th 9:30am 4th Sunday in Advent with Communion

Sunday Dec. 24th 4pm, 5:30pm–Christmas Eve: “Jesus: The Son of Mary” (Matthew 1:16)

Monday Dec. 25th 9:30am–Christmas Day: “Christmas, as John Writes It” (John 1:1–14)

No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 28th

Sunday December 31st 9:30am New Year’s Eve Worship— Guest Pastor Jim Klug

Sunday January 7th 8am & 10:30am Services— “People Who Don’t Belong” (Matthew 2:1–12)

Help us Decorate the Chancel for Christmas! Order Your Poinsettia Plant Now!

<i>Pot Size</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>6”</i>	<i>Average width 16”</i>	<i>\$16.00</i>
<i>7”</i>	<i>Average width 18”</i>	<i>\$21.00</i>
<i>10”</i>	<i>Average width 28”</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>

*****The deadline to order flowers is Sunday, November 19th.*** Please make checks payable to: *Grace Lutheran Church*. The flowers will be red with a gold foil. Please note, in order to get your order, you must have payment in by Sunday November 19th. Please use the Sign Up sheet on the table in the narthex and include your money in the envelope provided, placing it in the basket or if you have any questions, or would like to place your order with us by phone: please contact the Church office at 762-8990.**

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: mevorch@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: mevorch@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 \$28,031.63 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:

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

IN THE WORD FOR 25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

Verse of the week: 2 Timothy 3:15 From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalm of the week: Psalm 67

Hymn of the week: LSB 790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Flow of Blood and a Girl Is Raised—Matthew 9:18-26

Monday— The Birth of Samson—Judges 13:1-25

Tuesday— Samson’s Philistine Wife and His Riddle—Judges 14:1-20

Wednesday— The Foxes, Torches, and the Jawbone of a Donkey—Judges 15:1-20

Thursday— Thanksgiving: The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19

Friday— Remember How the Lord Has Led You—Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Saturday— The New Heavens and New Earth—Isaiah 65:17-25

“For it can be easy on Thanksgiving to be thankful for the things, thankful for what we are and have, but thankfulness in faith cries out to God, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!’ and falls on its face at Jesus’ feet, giving thanks to Christ.” *Rev. Cody Cooper, Guest Speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – 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 "Until that Day" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. No one knows when Christ will return. Until that day, we live in certain uncertainty. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) **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— Have you ever questioned why God often elevates the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: “*so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.*” It is only by God’s grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God’s work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, “*Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong*” (2 Corinthians 12:9b-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

AS GOD’S STEWARDS, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN AND OVER CREATION.

“And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth’ ” (Genesis 1:28).



Growing in Grace
November 9th & 12th, 2023

Offering

General Offering	\$2443.25		
On-Line Giving	\$1150.65		
Missions	\$0.00	<i>Attendance</i>	109
Debt Fund	\$25.00	<i>Communed</i>	83
Mortgage Offering	\$0.00		
Portals of Prayer	\$0.00		
Total	\$3618.90		

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 COMING WEEK

Sunday	11/19	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	11/20	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	11/21	7:00 am 10am-10pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Culvers Dine Out
Wednesday	11/22	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Thursday	11/23	-----	THANKSGIVING DAY
Friday	11/24	-----	-----
Sunday	11/26	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study 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

