

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



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

Ephesians 2:8



*Image:* "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" (*Psalm 95:1-2*)

# 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, The Orthodox Life"***

Preparing for Christ's return means loving the people around us. Today's Readings reveal that also means living the orthodox life today. *Orthodox* means "*right glory*," and today we glorify God for sending His Son, David's descendant, to fulfill the promise in Ezekiel and to care so deeply for us that He died for us. In essence His cross was His throne, loving us to death. We dare not wait to share that news, for Christ has already risen, Paul reminds in the Epistle. Right now, the end time in which we live has multiple opportunities to share God's love. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that means caring for the "*least of these My brothers*" (Matthew 25:40) in their hunger, poverty, and even separation from society. Why? Because the Kingdom has already been graciously prepared for us. Today's Readings encourage us to give God "*right glory*" by sharing His love.

### **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 905 Come, Thou Almighty King (vs. 1-4)

*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 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV, read responsively)**

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,\*  
**the home of | righteousness.**

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;\*

**let me know how fleeting | I am!**

Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,\*

**and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.**

And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?\*

**My hope | is in you.**

Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.\*

**Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace | at my tears!\*

**For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my | fathers.**

**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.**

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,\*  
**the home of | 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. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

#### **Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24***

***(God will shepherd His people Himself.)***

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they

shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

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

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

- P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
- C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**
  
- P Blessed are those whose strength is in You,
- C **in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

**Epistle Lesson** *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

**(Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.)**

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

- 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 Last Sunday of the Church** "*Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.*" (Revelation 22:13)

**Holy Gospel Matthew 25:31-46**

*(The Christian life involves loving the people around us.)*

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- 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 “All Die, but in Christ All Are Made Alive!” (1 Cor. 15:20-28)** 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 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon “Where Easter Is Headed” (1 Cor. 15:20-28)**

**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](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write 'online giving' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



*Stand*

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

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **Preface** *LSB 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

-793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (vs. 1-4)

-680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (vs. 1-5)

*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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith so that we daily show forth His love and mercy until that day when we see Him face to face to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4)**

**Announcements**

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

**People:** Thanks be to God!



 ***Altar Flowers*** 

Altar flowers this week are given by Pauline and Morgan Parker  
in memory of Chet Parker – and in honor of Morgan's Birthday

**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; **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) 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); **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); **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); **Pauline Parker** (healing & strength); and Mike Zanardi (pancreatic 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 **John Curnie**, friend of Carol Loveall, who was called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the family of John Curnie, and all who mourn his death, that casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. 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](mailto:Paulinemom@aol.com).

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

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

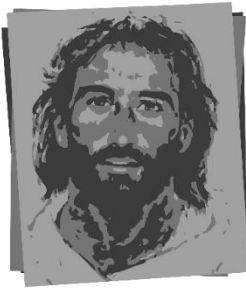
|                         | <u>Wednesday 11/22 6:30pm</u> | <u>Sunday 11/16 8:00 am</u> | <u>Sunday 11/26 10:30 am</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Elders</u>           | Mike Huber                    | Mark Olen                   | Rick Weeks                   |
| <u>Readers</u>          | Pastor Taggatz                | Glenn Dotson                | Beth Jackson                 |
| <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.

## **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 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm—Advent Midweek 1**— “Jesus: The Son of David” (Matthew 1:1, 6)

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

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

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

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

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent with Communion**

**Sunday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm, 5:30pm—Christmas Eve**: “Jesus: The Son of Mary” (Matthew 1:16)

**Monday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am—Christmas Day**: “Christmas, as John Writes It” (John 1:1–14)

**No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30am New Year’s Eve Worship**— Guest Pastor Jim Klug

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

**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 11<sup>th</sup> and ending June 23<sup>rd</sup>. (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](mailto: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](http://www.stephenministries.org/stephenministry/default.cfm/917)

### **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 \$28,131.63 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 LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

**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 149

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 514 “The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us” (stanza 1-2)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13

**Monday**—Samson and Delilah—Judges 16:1-31

**Tuesday**— The Family of Elimelech and Naomi—Ruth 1:1-22

**Wednesday**— Ruth Gleans Grain in the Field of Boaz—Ruth 2:1-23

**Thursday**— Boaz Decides to Redeem Ruth—Ruth 3:1-18

**Friday**— Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption from the Near Kinsman—Ruth 4:1-22

**Saturday**—Christ is our Righteousness—Jeremiah 23:5-8

## LUTHERAN HOUR DEVOTIONS ADVENT 2023

### *“What Child Is This?”*

In Jesus' birth, God came down to earth for us. In *What Child Is This?* we see how Jesus, foretold by the prophets and confirmed by God as His own Beloved Son, is the Father's ancient promise fulfilled. Born to save us from our sins, this lowly Child triumphed over sin and death to become our Savior. Lutheran Hour devotionals are available on the back table of the narthex in our Church. We will include our church's contact information, along with our Holiday Worship Times so that you can share the joy of the birth of our Savior Jesus with those around you, namely, your neighbors, family members, and friends. Here are some tips on sharing these devotions with your neighbors, family members, and friends inviting them to worship with us this holiday season:

#### **SEEK GOD:**

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the heart of your friend.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless all interactions with your friends and family.

#### **BE CREATIVE:**

- Exchange stories of family Christmas traditions. You'll learn about others' current spiritual situation and be able to share what Jesus means to you.
- Invite your friends to make new traditions this year, especially if the Christmas season is stressful or depressing. Invite them to read the devotions with you, go to Advent services, or participate in a servant event.
- Bring your friend or family member to help work at a church activity before Christmas. Getting to know people in a nonthreatening way makes them more likely to attend future worship.

**FOLLOW UP:**

Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries can help keep your faith conversations going. Read, listen, e-mail, or print at [lhm.org/advent](http://lhm.org/advent).

“Being For Life is right in line with God’s plan of creation! YOU are the missing element that is needed! Don’t be satisfied to sit back and wait because now is the time! Don’t stop praying as you ponder your next step. Ask God for His guidance and be ready for more than you asked for, as we have a loving and merciful God who loves life. Please consider being a part of a life-affirming ministry in your congregation. Help protect lives and serve God in this special calling.” *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Loving Mercy"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. Will those who do good things be saved? Or, will those who are saved...do good things? Dr. Dean Nadasdy says those who love Christ also love showing mercy to others. (Matthew 25:34-40) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)** scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

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

**Stewardship Minute**— Thanksgiving Day is a very special day of the year. Whether we are young or old, rich or poor, Christians join together in giving God thanks for His wonderful blessings. We are mindful of the Apostle Paul’s Words, “...Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Thankfulness is an attitude of the heart and mind and is not necessarily dependent on amount of food on our Thanksgiving tables or even the state of our general well-being. As Christians, we rely on our Savior for all of our needs, and we give thanks in both good and bad times.

**PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW AND LIVE YOUR LIVES IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND GOODNESS.**

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!”  
(Psalm 107:1).



**Growing in Grace**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Offering**

|                          |                  |                       |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>General Offering</i>  | \$3519.00        |                       |
| <i>On-Line Giving</i>    | \$1035.77        |                       |
| <i>Missions</i>          | \$0.00           | <i>Attendance</i> 129 |
| <i>Debt Fund</i>         | \$0.00           | <i>Communed</i> 87    |
| <i>Mortgage Offering</i> | \$125.00         |                       |
| <i>Portals of Prayer</i> | \$0.00           |                       |
| <b><i>Total</i></b>      | <b>\$4679.77</b> |                       |

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

**OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS COMING WEEK**

|           |       |  |   |
|-----------|-------|--|---|
| Sunday    | 11/26 | <b>8:00 am</b><br>9:15 am<br><b>10:30 am</b>                   | <b>Divine Worship</b><br>Adult Bible Study<br><b>Divine Worship</b>                         |
| Monday    | 11/27 | <b>6:30 pm</b><br><b>6:30 pm</b>                               | Confirmation Class<br>Grief Share   |
| Tuesday   | 11/28 | <b>7:00 am</b>   | Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)  |
| Wednesday | 11/29 | <b>9:30 am</b>   | Ladies Bible Study  |
| Thursday  | 11/30 | <b>6:30 pm</b>   | <b>Divine Worship</b>   |
| Friday    | 12/1  | -----  | -----   |
| Sunday    | 12/3  | <b>8:00 am</b><br>9:15 am<br><b>9:15 am</b><br><b>10:30 am</b> | <b>Divine Worship</b><br>Adult Bible Study<br><b>Sunday School</b><br><b>Divine Worship</b> |

## 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)<br>715-467-1231 (Cell)<br>262-664-4365 (Home)<br><a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a> |
|--------|----------------------|--|

|                        |                      |              |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Principal              | Mr. Steve Gettelman  | 414-762-3655 |
| ECC Director           | Mrs. Rachel Miliacca | 414-762-8755 |
| Director of Music      | Mrs. Lisa Hengst     |              |
| Choir Director         | Mrs. Kathy Kolb      |              |
| Congregation President | Mr. Tony Mirenda     | 414-807-7445 |

|      |               |              |
|------|---------------|--------------|
| Fax: | Church/School | 414-762-8869 |
|      | ECC           | 414-856-9262 |

|               |                                   |  |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Pastor        |                                   | <a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>           |
| Church Office | Heidi Brunzelle, Church Secretary | <a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>           |
| Principal     |                                   | <a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>     |
| School Office | Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.      | <a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>           |
| ECC Director  |                                   | <a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a> |
| ECC Office    |                                   | <a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>                 |

Church & ECC  
3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office  
Mailing Address  
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

