

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10th, 2023

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."
Ephesians 2:8



Image: "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (*Isaiah 40:5*)

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 "We Are Waiting because He Is Patient"

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "*The Lord . . . is patient toward you,*" says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

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... special "Trim the Tree Service"

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Blessing on Him who comes as King.

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

P: I will hear what the Lord God has to say.

C: **A voice that speaks for peace.**

P: Peace for all people and for His friends...

C: **and those who turn to Him in their hearts.**

P: His help is near for those who fear Him...

C: **and His glory will live in our land.**

P: Blessing on Him who comes as King, who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 80:1, 3, 14a, 17; 40:1, 3a*

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

C: **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see.

C: **But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand, the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**

P: I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

C: **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

C: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

P: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

C: **Amen.**

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

Children

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-3

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

(The children are asked to come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung. Children grades Preschool through Kindergarten are invited to come up first, then First through 3rd Grade, and finally 4th through 8th Grade to put an ornament on the Christmas tree...)

HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357 vs. 1-2)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. <i>Refrain</i>	2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord’rest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. <i>Refrain</i>
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*ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

January, February, & March

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and

you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(Those with birthdays in January, February, and March come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “On Jordan’s Banks...” (LSB 344, vs. 1-3)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings! | 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there. |
| 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay. | |

April

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

(Those with birthdays in April come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “What Child is This” (LSB 370, vs. 1 & 3)

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|---|---|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary! | 3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary! |
|---|---|

May

Reading: Luke 1:39-42

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

(Those with birthdays in May come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Let us All with Gladsome Voice” (LSB 390, vs. 1 & 3)

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| 1 Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son hath given. | We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder. |
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June

Reading: Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

(Those with birthdays in June come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LSB 361, vs. 1-2)

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| 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
The silent stars go by; | Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. |
|--|---|

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels
keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

July

Reading: Luke 2:6-7

⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

(Those with birthdays in July come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN "Away in a Manger" (LSB 364, vs. 1 & 3)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the [bright] sky looked down
where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

August

Reading: Luke 2:8-12

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

(Those with birthdays in August come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt" (LSB 369, vs. 1 & 3)

1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.

3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

September

Reading: Luke 2:13-14

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

(Those with birthdays in September come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB 368, vs. 1 & 3)

1	Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. <i>Refrain</i>	3	Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. <i>Refrain</i>
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ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

October

Reading: Luke 2:15-16

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

(Those with birthdays in October come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (LSB 383, vs. 1 & 3)

1	A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure: The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure! <i>Refrain</i>	3	While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands, Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands. <i>Refrain.</i>
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ref *Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
“To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!”*

November

Reading: Luke 2:17-20

¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

(Those with birthdays in November come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379, vs. 1 & 3)

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: <i>Refrain</i>	3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: <i>Refrain</i>
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*ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,*

*O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

December

Reading: Luke 2:34-35

³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

(Those with birthdays in December come forward and put a decoration on the Christmas tree as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” (LSB 366, vs. 1 & 4)

1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.” The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.	4 For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old, When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold. His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring, And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.
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Remembering the family and friends not present

Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

(Anyone wishing to put a decoration on the Christmas tree for other family members not present here today or in memory of those now with the Lord in heaven come forward as the next hymn is sung)

HYMN “Joy to the World” (LSB 387, vs. 1 & 4)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Stand

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message “A Nice Surprise!” (2 Peter 3:8-14) 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 “Advent Patience” (2 Peter 3:8-14)

Sermon Text: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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 website 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 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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 197

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 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

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

-Instrumental Music

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**
P 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 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.**

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
P Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

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.**

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!
c: **Thanks be to God!**



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); Cookie (lung cancer); Evan (healing & strength); Sue Klemme (pancreatic cancer); Keith Iverson (hospice); Scott (kidney failure); Marlene Voss (hearing loss); 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; 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); Sharon Russell (recovery from a fall); Pauline Parker (healing & strength); and Mike Zanardi (pancreatic cancer); Scott Dimke (ICU after heart surgery) friend of Eric & Lisa Kamprath; Doc Medek (rehabilitation); Sharon McCaigue (cancer); and Cheryl (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; Dianne (recovery from heart surgery) organist of Prince of Peace Caledonia; Daniel Sinnen (cancer) Grandson of Bernice Byklum; Carol Long (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; Terry Rowley (skin cancer) mother of Mary Rowley; Dave Stecker Jr. (recovery from heart surgery) son of Dave Stecker; and Blaine Goldner (kidney transplant) friend of Carol Loveall.

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, the family of **Dennis Nameth**, the father of Michael Nameth, and the family of **Bob Chicos**, a relative of the Taggatz family, who were called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the families of Bob Chicos, Dennis Nameth & John Curnie, and all who mourn their deaths, 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.

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 12/7 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 12/10 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 12/10 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mark Olen	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Pastor Taggatz	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Advent	Kathy Szefflinski	Kathy Szefflinski
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elder	Elder	Martin Taggatz
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel	Bob Buzzell	Tommy Szefflinski
	Charlotte Klipfel	Lynn Buzzell	Andrea Szefflinski
			Edward Taggatz

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.

Your 2024 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church.

Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childcare Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you!

****Please do not use until January 2024.****

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.

Welcome to our New Members at Grace!!!

We welcome these new families to Grace as of this past month.

We are so happy that you have joined our Church family!!! *Mary & Tammy Rowley, Jared & Erika Zeimentz and family, & Rebekah Lofton and family!*

The Mites collection dates for December are: 12-8 and 12-10

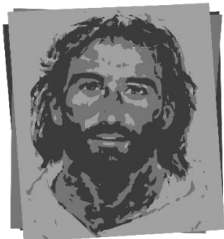
Sign-up for 2024 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex. Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at: (414) 762-0246. Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service. You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner. Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services. Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.

Mitten Tree "*O Mitten tree, O Mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold! O Mitten tree, O mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold. We will fill you with hats and mittens! Wrap you with warmth and love. O mitten tree, O mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold.*" Thank you! -Ladies Guild. Once again this year, the Mitten Tree has been placed in the narthex. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group. Please help us to "*decorate*" the tree! All sizes are needed! If you are a knitter or crocheter...Pauline Parker has bins of yarn to be used for this project...please reach out to her if you need some

Altar Guild -We at Grace are blessed with not just one faithful and selfless individual who tends to the altar, we have a whole team of such folks! And we are looking for more to join the team! Altar Guild duties are divided into Communion Set-up and Linen Care. Our schedules are flexible so we can accommodate your schedule. Questions about serving? Contact: Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com OR ask one of the altar ladies as you see her working in the altar room!

SAVE THE DATE - January 20th - **Bingo Night at Grace** - Our Fellowship Committee at Grace would like to announce our next event on Saturday, Jan 20th at 6:30-8:00. It was such a hit last year and we were asked to bring it back. It will be a free night of fellowship, fun, food and small prizes. We will be asking you to bring finger foods to pass and non alcoholic drinks for your family. (we are not allowed to have alcoholic drinks on the school premises.) This is a family event for all Church, School, and ECC families. We will have activities for grade school children, kindergarten and up, to keep them entertained. We will NOT be able to accommodate younger children. We are also looking for students that need service hours to help entertain these young ones, or if some adults would be interested that would be fine. Please mark your calendars and be sure to sign-up! We would love to see all of you there! We will put out the particulars and sign-up sheets in the Narthex. There was also an email send to all church members with a link to sign up as well.



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.

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)

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

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 \$30,331.63 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 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Fourth Petition

Verse of the week: Matthew 24:27, 44, “*As the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*”

Psalms of the week: Psalm 50:1-15

Hymn of the week: LSB 347 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” (stanza 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Coming of the Son of Man—Luke 21:25-36

Monday— Gabriel Appears to Zachariah—Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday— The Annunciation of Our Lord—Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday— Jesus Restores to Life—Mark 5:21-42

Thursday— The Visitation—Luke 1:39-56

Friday— The Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Luke 1:57-66

Saturday— Comfort My People—Isaiah 40:1-11

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 devotionals 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 devotionals 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.

“You might not be impressive by the world’s standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!” *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – 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 "A-T Walker" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost. (Isaiah 40:3) **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— God demonstrated His amazing love for us by sending His only Son to earth to be born in a manger that would lead to the Cross and His resurrection. Through His Son, God has given us the gift of being His children, and He will always care and provide for us. God wants us to use our blessings and gifts for His glory and purpose. First and foremost, God wants us to share the gift of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, the Baby born in the manger to save us from our sins. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”* (Matthew 28:19-20). Don’t disappoint God by not using the gifts that He has entrusted to you in service to Him.

AT JESUS’ BIRTH, THE SHEPHERD WENT IN HASTE TO TELL OTHERS WHAT THEY HAD SEEN.

“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen...” (Luke 2:20).



Growing in Grace
November 30th December 3rd

Offering

<i>General Offering</i>	\$4643.25		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1167.54		
<i>Missions</i>	\$20.00	<i>Attendance – Thurs. Service</i>	37
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<i>Sunday Service</i>	115
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Communed</i>	76
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$30.00		
<i>Total</i>	\$5860.79		

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	12/10	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship – Trim the Tree Service Adult Bible Study Divine Worship
Monday	12/11	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	12/12	7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	12/13	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study Council Meeting
Thursday	12/14	6:30 pm	Advent Service
Friday	12/15	-----	-----
Saturday	12/16	-----	-----
Sunday	12/17	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship – Trim the Tree Service 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
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi Brunzelle, Church Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office
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