

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



Ephesians 2:8



**Image:** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

# 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 “Just As ... I AM”**

“*Just*” can mean “*barely*.” “*Just*” can mean “*only*.” It implies “*not enough to measure up*.” It captures and conveys the burdens we experience existing in a broken world. But “*just*” also carries a beloved joy for Christians. We have a just God. He justifies (*forgives and saves*) our hearts and lives, and He works justice (*defense and vindication*) for the victim and the vulnerable. In the same way, “*I AM*” sounds familiar and dear to us. “*I AM*” proclaims the intimate covenant name and identity of our Almighty Father. “*I AM*” expresses both the confession of our sinful insufficiency and the confidence in our Savior’s promises. Our Lord is the God of life and living who brings presence and power. “*Just as I AM*” gives synonym for the image of God. Every human being, from fertilization to forever, has been made just as the *I AM* by His grace. We may receive each neighbor as much a gift and a privilege as the Most High Himself—no matter how their age, appearance, or ability seem to leave them “*barely*” or “*only*.” St. Paul the Apostle’s Epistle to the Ephesians clearly declares and explains this Gospel reality. This second chapter especially gives an answer to what makes human life of value. It invites us to think about living and dying in depth beyond how our culture and nature incline us to do. Above all, it lays bare the effects of both human guilt and heavenly grace, and it demonstrates whose activity matters most and where our race’s energy comes from.

### **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...as outlined in your bulletin...

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LSB 790 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord  
C **who made heaven and earth.**  
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**  
P Almighty God, Maker and Father,  
C **You despise nothing You have made, and You desire not the death of sinners. We confess that we have abused Your blessings, neglected our neighbors, and served only ourselves. Our sin, within and without, known and unknown, has made us and our world unrighteous altogether. Mercifully turn us from temptation and transgression to lament our frailties, repent our failures, and amend our behavior. Graciously take away our guilt and punishment for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Substitute and Advocate. Grant that His atonement for iniquity and dominion over death reconcile us in holy faithfulness to You and humble fellowship with one another. 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

Introit: *Psalm 8:1-9*

- P O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
C **You have set your glory above the heavens.**  
P Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,  
C **to still the enemy and the avenger.**  
P When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

C **the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,**  
P what is man that you are mindful of him,  
C **and the son of man that you care for him?**  
P Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
C **and crowned him with glory and honor.**  
P You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;  
C **you have put all things under his feet,**  
P all sheep and oxen,  
C **and also the beasts of the field,**  
P the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
C **whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**  
P O Lord, our Lord,  
C **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**  
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### Hymn of Praise: What Wondrous Love (LSB 543 vs. 1-3)

##### Collect

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And, also with you.**  
P Let us pray: O Lord, You have wondrously created us and all else for Yourself and for life everlasting. In the coming of Your Son, You have redeemed our race and united humankind to Your own immortality. As Your Holy Spirit continues to call and lay claim to body and soul, grant us every one to be made now and ever more like the image of Him who made Himself like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

*Sit*

#### Old Testament Lesson—*Genesis 9:1-15*

##### ***“God Calls Noah and his Sons to be Fruitful and Multiply and Fill the Earth”***

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I

gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.” Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Lesson—Ephesians 2:1-10**

***“By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith”***

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia Verse for Sanctity of Life Sunday—***“Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9 & John 14:18)*

**Gospel Lesson—John 14:12-20**

***“Because Jesus lives, we also shall live in Him”***

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Apostles’ Creed *LSB 207***

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Children’s Message “Just As...I Am”** *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)*

*Sit*

**Sermon Hymn: Just As I Am (LSB 570 vs. 1-5)**

**Sermon “Just As ... I AM” (Ephesians 2:1-10)**

**Offering Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign (LSB 832 vs. 1-3)**

**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 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus *LSB 208***

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209***

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:**

**Lord's Prayer *LSB 209***

- C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209***

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood,**



which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **Pax Domini LSB 209**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei LSB 210**

- C 1 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*Sit*

### **Distribution**

#### **We celebrate the Lord’s Supper**

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

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**

- Lord Take My Hand & Lead Me” (LSB 722 vs 1-3)
- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (LSB 686 vs 1-4)

*Stand*

### **Nunc Dimittis LSB 211**

- C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav’nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.
  
- 2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God’s triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.

### **Post-Communion Collect LSB 212**

- A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, gracious Father, that Your grace is timeless and Your mercy is for all people. As we heed the call of Christ and follow, strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

**Benedicamus LSB 212**

- A Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

**Benediction LSB 212**

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.  
C **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (LSB 740 vs. 1-3)**

**Announcements**

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



**Altar Flowers given by Dennis and Sharon Iseli in honor of their son,  
Kevin Iseli's Birthday on January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**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); 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); Cookie (lung cancer; Evan (healing & strength); Sue Klemme (pancreatic cancer); Keith Iverson (hospice); Scott (kidney failure); 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), Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); Craig (stem cell transplant); Dianna Abelt (healing and strength); Sara Keno (seizures); Dale Schmidt (Huntington's Disease); and Mike Zanardi

(pancreatic cancer); **Doc Medek** (rehabilitation); **Sharon McCaigue** (cancer); and **Cheryl** (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; **Daniel Sinnen** (cancer) Grandson of Bernice Byklum; **Carol Long** (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; and **Blaine Goldner** (kidney transplant) friend of Carol Loveall; and **Henry (spinal cancer)** friend of Sharon Iseli.

**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 Pauline Parker & Rose Adams, as they grieve over the death of their cousin, Flora Magestro. We pray. Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the family of Flora Magestro as they mourn her recent death, that casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Help them to know that because Jesus lives, they too shall live, and have eternal life in His name. 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	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 1/11 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/14 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/14 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mike Huber	Greg Nowakowski	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Glenn Dotson	Chris Cotter
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elder	Elder	McKenzie Isenhardt
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Madilyn Hundt	Tommy Szefflinski
	Jim Robinson	Garrison Hundt	Andrea Szefflinski
			Mike Huber
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

**New Members Class on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School**

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave on Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need childcare. Watch an introductory video at: [www.lhm.org/GodConnects](http://www.lhm.org/GodConnects).

#### **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.

**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.

## **Blessings for Baby -A Place of Refuge**

January 14th-Life Sunday

Blessings for Baby items will be collected starting Jan 14. List of items needed: Baby wipes, Coloring Books, Bibs, Infant socks, sleepers, headbands, wash clothes, toys, Baby Powder

**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](mailto:olenjennifer@aol.com) OR ask one of the altar ladies as you see her working in the altar room!

## **LWML South Wisconsin District Winter Getaway**

**February 2 & 3, 2024**

Marriot West, Waukesha *'Growing Together' Mentoring Workshop*

Retreat Speaker: Darcy Paape from the Women's Leadership Institute at Concordia University More information and registration forms are available at: [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)

## **February 11th-New Member Potluck**

On Sunday February 11th, following our 10:30am worship service, we will be having a New Member Potluck in our School Gymnasium. During the month of January, we will have a sign-up sheet in the Church Narthex requesting our members to bring a main entrée, side dish, and/or desserts for this event. Please plan on coming to our New Member Potluck to get a chance to meet and get to know our new members at Grace!

**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 sent to all church members with a link to sign up as well.

**Stephen Ministry Training Information Meeting on Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> following 10:30am Service.**

There will be an information meeting for anyone interested in learning more about the Stephen Ministry program on Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>, following the 10:30am service. Please join us and find out more about this program and what it means. Prayerfully consider this as an opportunity to use your God given talents. We are in need of individuals who feel called to minister the love of Christ to those in need. We plan on starting a new training class in February and would love to have you join us. If you are unable to attend at this time and would like more information, please contact:

Pastor Taggatz (715) 467-1231 or Jeanne Meyer (414-423-0010) or Lori Kachelmeier (414-828-0290)

**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 \$35,906.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

**Adult Bible Class Topic— God’s Word for Today: 1 Peter “God’s Chosen People.”** On Sunday mornings in the school library from 9:15-10:15am, we will be studying 1 Peter. In this Bible Study you will learn that by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter writes His first epistle to those concerned about living their Christian faith in a sometimes unreceptive and even hostile environment. Peter’s words of hope are just as timely today as they were for the believers of the first century who first received them.

**IN THE WORD FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Catechism:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism? Which is that Word of God? What benefits does Baptism give? Which are these words and promises of God?

**Verse of the week:** John 3:5-6 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 66

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 406 “To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— The Wedding in Cana of Galilee—John 2:1-11

**Monday**— The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17

**Tuesday**— Behold the Lamb of God—John 1:19-34

**Wednesday**— Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night—John 3:1-16

**Thursday**— The Confession of St. Peter—Mark 8:27-35

Friday— The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15

Saturday— The Glory of God Is Reflected in Moses' Face—Exodus 34:29-35

“Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior’s victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege. Let’s press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!” *Pastor Michael Salemink, 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 "How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27) **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.

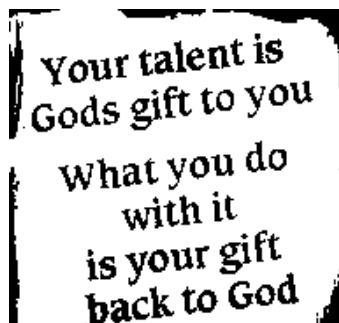
WTMJ 103.3 FM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

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

**Stewardship Minute**— Stewardship is a relationship, not just activities and responsibilities. It recognizes God as the owner of all things - including our very lives. That means all choices concerning our money, possessions, time, family, relationships, and tasks are spiritual decisions lived in response to our relationship to God. The more we get to know God, Who owns all things, the better we can manage life according to His will. That knowledge of Him and that relationship with Him develop by reading and studying His Word and receiving His Sacraments. Working through that Word and God’s Holy Sacraments, the Holy Spirit does His work of sanctification, changing us into the likeness of our Savior (2 Cor 3:18).

**USE THE TALENTS GOD HAS  
GIVEN YOU IN SERVICE TO  
OTHERS FOR HIS GLORY.**

*“Whatever you do, work heartily,  
as for the Lord and not for men”  
(Colossians 3:23).*







## ***“Just As ... I AM”***

**“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)**

Charlotte Elliott wrote the familiar hymn “Just As I Am” in 1834. Born in 1789, a severe illness at age 32 left her unable to care for herself. Charlotte thereafter lived with her younger brother, Henry.

The parish he pastored in the resort town of Brighton, England, decided to hold a bazaar. Its proceeds would fund a school building and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Charlotte felt herself useless because she could not assist with preparations.

This hymn’s stanzas embodied her cries in answer to the despair. She then offered it as encouragement in a collection she called *The Invalid’s Hymnbook* (1836).

**Just As I Am ...** its beloved lines memorably testify to the sanctity of every human life. Almighty God does “receive, welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve” each member of our race with the heart of a Heavenly Father and the arms of a Gracious Savior. No ages, appearances, or abilities, no impairments or illnesses, not even guilt and grief can exclude from a place in His kingdom and a part in His family. We get to rejoice in our own lives and in our neighbors as gift and privilege. If our Lord’s forgiving favor can overcome sinful failures, then His lavish love will more than make up for human limitations.

“Just” has become an especially precious word for Lutherans. Its verb “justify” occupies the heart of the Gospel. The Holy One Himself gives the reason for every existence by declaring humankind righteous for the sake of Jesus Christ. “Just” means “worthy,” but it also means “barely.”

Any humanity from fertilization to final breath amounts to enough.

God’s creating work, redeeming labors, and calling activities never come up short. Persons undergoing surprise pregnancy, experiencing disability, or suffering terminal diagnosis matter as much as you and me. Indeed, they matter as much as the Son of Man, since Jesus incarnates all of our conditions and carries every sorrow. Even when human mouths cannot utter “I am,” Lord God lends them His own likeness and proclaims, “I AM!”

**We Lutherans love life because He first loved all.**

**Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices [For Life](#)**

**[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) • [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) 888.364.LIFE (5433)**

**Growing in Grace  
January 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Offering**

General Offering	\$4593.50		
On-Line Giving	\$8793.22		
Missions	\$120.00	<i>Attendance –</i>	
Debt Fund	\$10.00	<i>Sunday Service</i>	120
Mortgage Offering	\$85.00	<i>Total Communed</i>	98
Portals of Prayer	\$0.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,601.72</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	1/14	<b>8:00 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>1:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship – Life Sunday</b> <b>Adult Buble Study</b> <b>Divine Worship</b> <b>New Member Class</b>
Monday	1/15	<b>6:30 pm</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	1/16	<b>7:00 am</b> <b>10 am-10 pm</b>	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Culver’s Dining Out Event
Wednesday	1/17	<b>9:30 am</b>	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/18	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
Friday	1/19	-----	-----
Saturday	1/20	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Bingo Night at Grace</b>
Sunday	1/21	<b>8:00 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Divine Worship</b> <b>Stephen Ministries Informational Meeting</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) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <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 ECC	414-762-8869 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

