

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

National Lutheran Schools Week

January 18th & 21st, 2024

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



2024
CONNECTED
NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



Image: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

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 "Connected"

National Lutheran Schools Week is an annual celebration that promotes the important role of Lutheran schools in the United States and around the world. The theme for the 2023-2024 school year celebration is "*Connected*," inspired by John 15:5: "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" The theme "*Connected*" emphasizes the importance of staying connected to God and to one another when we face challenges and difficulties and when we share in joys and triumphs! It encourages Lutheran schools and congregations to continue to cultivate an environment of faith, love and fellowship, where students and congregation members can learn, grow and thrive. Connections with Christ are always Trinitarian. The Father sends His only Son as the sacrifice for our sins. The Holy Spirit, promised by the Son, connects us to Him and blesses us with the fruits of faith. The connection between the three persons of the Trinity is emphasized during National Lutheran Schools Week. In the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, students, staff and partners celebrate the connection to the church and the commission to grow the kingdom. The Trinitarian emphasis invites a remembrance of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, where God first connects Himself to us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service...Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Opening Hymn 861 Christ Be My Leader (vs. 1-3)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

Introit (Psalm 113:1-2, 4, 7-8; antiphon: v. 3, read responsively)

From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*

the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of the LORD,*

praise the name | of the LORD!

Blessèd be the name | of the LORD*

from this time forth and for- | evermore!

The LORD is high above all | nations,*

and his glory above the | heavens!

He raises the poor | from the dust*

and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

to make them sit with | princes,*
with the princes of his | people.

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.

From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

Kyrie *LSB 204*

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

- P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

(Jonah goes to Nineveh.)

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

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

Gradual (*Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8, read responsively*)

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle Lesson *1 Corinthians 7:29-35*

(Faithful living with time given)

²⁹This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³²I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 205

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia Verse for National Lutheran Schools Week—*“Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.” (Mark 1:15)*

Holy Gospel Mark 1:14-20

(Jesus calls the first disciples.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

¹⁴After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

¹⁶Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message “We Are the Branches!” (John 15:1-5) *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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “Fruitful Lutheran School” (John 15:1-5)

Sermon Text— John 15:1-5—“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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

Sanctus *LSB 208*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 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

- 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (vs. 1-4)
- 688 “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake (vs. 1-5)

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 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Altar Flowers given by Dawn Jantz,

In loving memory of Bob's Birthday (January 20th)

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; 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); 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; Henry (spinal cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli, Sharon Iseli (medical test); Lisa (pancreas, and kidney transplant) friend of Dena Guziewicz; Laura (sister, Sara passed away) friend of Dena Guziewicz; Diane (husband, Ken passed away) friend of Dena Guziewicz; and Fred Gamroth (Aunt, Gloria passed away).

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.

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

Prayers for worship:			414-762-8990
Church Office:			
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 1/18 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/21 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/21 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Mark Olen	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szefflinski	Erica Vitek	Taylor Lau
<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 Isenhart
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Madilyn Hundt	Tommy Szefflinski
	Jim Robinson	Garrison Hundt	Andrea Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

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 be sure to take your poinsettias home with you. Thank you for purchasing the poinsettias to beautify our chancel area during the celebration of our Lord's birth at Christmas!

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

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 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

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! Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the New Member Potluck on Sunday February 11th as a kickoff to this fundraiser and thank you for helping out those in need!!!

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Economy Center thrift store urgently needs volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays!

Phone: 414-442-2272
7814 W. Burleigh St.
Milwaukee, WI 53222
<https://lcfswi.org/our-stores/>

Volunteering provides an easy way to meet new people, serve the community, and support LCFS as it meets Wisconsin's adoption, addiction, and mental health needs.

Shifts vary, but typically are 9:00 am - 12:00 pm or 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

We need help with: Sorting donations, Marking prices, Cashiering, Displaying merchandise
And Testing/repairing electronics and small appliances

Please call Gayla Boehlke at 414-630-1214 if you are interested in helping.

All proceeds from the Economy Center support the mission of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services to give every person the opportunity to thrive.

To contact LCFS please call 414-536-8333.

– Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

EARLY CHILDHOOD > 1,677
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS > 191
MIDDLE SCHOOLS > 625
HIGH SCHOOLS > 103
TOTAL > 2,594

PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

LEARN MORE

888-THE LCMS (843-5267)
lcms.org/school-ministry



© 2023 LCMS

The Grace Board of Stewardship and Early Childhood Center present: The 2024 Chili Fundraiser—Orders can be placed between now and January 26th. Chili forms are available in the Church Narthex and in the Church/School office and ECC office. Contact the ECC for any phone orders at: 414-762-8755. Orders can be picked up after February 5th. The cost for chili is \$10 per quart. Proceeds for this fundraiser will be used to purchase glass protective fill for ECC Doors. Thank you for your generosity and support!!!

Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive

The Evangelism Board along with the *Hunger Task Force* is holding their Annual Fund Drive **starting February 11th**. The best way to support the *Hunger Task Force* is to make a monetary donation. The *Hunger Task Force* will then purchase the food to be distributed to those in need. There are envelopes on the table in the back of church to put your donations. The envelopes then can be placed in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to: Grace Lutheran Church. Please write *Hunger Task Force* in the memo section of your check. Thank you in advance for your generosity! *Grace Evangelism Board*. Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the New Member Potluck on Sunday February 11th as a kickoff to this fundraiser and thank you for helping out those in need!!!

Save the Date March 16, 2024—You are cordially invited to South Wisconsin District LWML Heart to Heart Sisters Event! Doors open at 8:30am and end at 2:30pm. Hosted at Granville Lutheran School: 8242 N Granville Road Milwaukee, WI 53224. The theme: *"Hearts for the Harvest."* (Matthew 9:37-38) Program brings LCMS ethnic groups and LCMS ethnic pastors together for a 1 day event. This year, we will have a cooking demonstration, African dance, ethnic choirs, children choirs, door prizes, and more! For more information: Email: jamellis2003@yahoo.com or visit www.lwml-swd.org

New Members Class RESCHEDULED for Sunday February 4th 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 February 4th from 1:30-5:30pm. We had to reschedule this class due to the *Extreme Winter Weather* we had during the weekend of January 14th. 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.

Stephen Ministry Training Information Meeting on Sunday January 21st following 10:30am Service. There will be an information meeting for anyone interested in learning more about the Stephen Ministry program on Sunday January 21st, 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, 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 \$26,906.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!** *(In the month of December, we had to replace the twin furnaces to the school gym and 1st Grade classroom at a cost of about \$9,000, we couldn't have been able to replace these furnaces without your help and support from our furnace fund, which has been approved in our previous voter's meetings. We actually saved \$1000 by purchasing the two furnaces together. Thank you!)*

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 3rd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism: How can water do such great things?

Verse of the week: 2 Corinthians 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Psalm of the week: Psalm 77

Hymn of the week: LSB 401 "From God the Father, Virgin-Born" (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9

Monday— Noah and the Flood—Gen. 6:5, 13, 17-19; 7:11-12, 16-17, 21-23

Tuesday— Noah and the Flood—Genesis 8:1a, 15-22; 9:1-17

Wednesday— The Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:31

Thursday— Israel Crosses the Jordan—Joshua 1:1-2, 10-11; 3:1-17

Friday— Naaman's Leprosy Is Cleansed—2 Kings 5:1-14

Saturday— The Israelites Demand Water—Exodus 17:1-7

"As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life - 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.

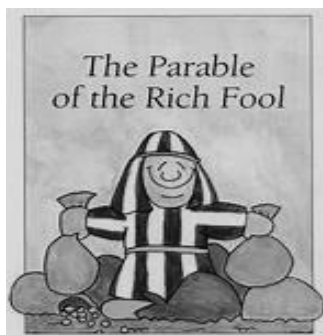
LUTHERAN HOUR "The Battleground of Forgiveness" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God's forgiveness covers our sins-but it's not a coverup! (Psalm 32:1) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org** scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." Or listen to 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— As Christians, we follow God's ways rather than the ways of the world. We look at life differently and no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus, Who took our sins upon Himself so we can live as forgiven people and be His faithful stewards. A faithful steward will learn to distinguish between needs and wants in order to live faithfully within the financial means entrusted to him. Frequently ask yourself, *"Is this what God, Who has entrusted me with my resources, would want me to do with these resources so that my life might fulfill His will?"* In the end, we long to hear Him say, *"Well done, good and faithful [steward]. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master"* (Matthew 25:23).

THE RICH FOOL WAS TOO SELF-SUFFICIENT TO SEEK GOD AND JESUS CALLED HIM A FOOL. ARE YOU TRUSTING IN YOURSELF OR GOD?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).



**Growing in Grace
January 11th & 14th**

Offering

General Offering	\$1661.00		
On-Line Giving	\$601.86		
Missions	\$0.00		
Debt Fund	\$0.00	Total Attendance	94
Mortgage Offering	\$0.00	Total Communed	64
Portals of Prayer	\$0.00		
Total	\$2262.86		

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	1/21	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:45	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship Stephen Ministries Informational Meeting
Monday	1/22	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	1/23	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/24	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/25	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/26	-----	-----
Saturday	1/27	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	1/28	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study 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

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

