

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



**Image:** "But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (*Isaiah 40:31*)

# 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 "Everyone Is Looking for You"***

Living at a time when it seems the Church is under attack, we might long for a time when everyone was looking for Jesus. Whether they know or realize it, the world is looking for Jesus, that is, for an answer to sin, fear, loneliness, pain, and death. Jesus is that answer. For this reason, our Lord had to continue to preach at the next town and the next. For this reason, we continue to proclaim the unchanging Gospel year in and year out, for it is the only Gospel by which any can be saved. May the Lord grant us zeal for His house and His kingdom!

### **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 3, pg. 184*

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Opening Hymn 825 Rise, Shine, You People (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution LSB 184**

*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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 13:3-5; antiphon: v. 6, sung responsively*)



I will sing | to the LORD,\*  
because he has dealt bountifully | with me.  
Consider and answer me, O | LORD my God;\*  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the | sleep of death,  
lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed | over him,”\*  
lest my foes rejoice because I am | shaken.  
But I have trusted in your | steadfast love;\*  
my heart shall rejoice in your sal- | vation.

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.

I will sing | to the LORD,\*  
because he has dealt bountifully | with me.

#### Kyrie *LSB 186*

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:  
C and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 189*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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*

**Grace Choir (Thursday evening only) “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

**Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 40:21-31***

***(The LORD God brings us out and calls us by name.)***

<sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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 9:16-27

*(St Paul does it all for the sake of the Gospel.)*

<sup>16</sup>If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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

*Stand*

**Alleluia LSB 190**

- C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia Verse for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany** *"Alleluia. [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. Alleluia."* (Mark 1:39)

**Holy Gospel Mark 1:29-39**

*(Everyone was looking for Jesus.)*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

#### Apostles' Creed *LSB 192*

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

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

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

*Sit*

**Children’s Message “Power Up” (Isaiah 40:21-31)** *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 398 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon “Promises, Promises!” (Isaiah 40:21-31)**

**Offertory LSB 192**

- C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.**

**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 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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***

- P 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.
- C **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 Hymns

-664 Fight the Good Fight (vs. 1-4)

-841 O Son of God, in Galilee (vs. 1-5)

*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***

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
 C and His mercy endureth forever.
- A Let us pray. Merciful Lord, in Your great love You have brought us from death to  
 life, forgiven all our sins, and made us Your children. Grant to us not only the healing  
 of the ills of this life but the perfect healing of everlasting life, which we have tasted  
 already in this blessed Communion. Deliver us from pride and arrogance and build  
 within us a servant's heart, that we may love You above all things and our neighbor  
 as You have loved 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.
- P The Lord be with you.  
 C And with thy spirit.

**Benedicamus *LSB 202***

- A 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.  
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.  
 C Amen, amen, amen.

**Closing Hymn 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-5)**

**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); 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); 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); 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; 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); 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 (healing); Lisa (pancreas, and kidney transplant) friend of Dena Guziewicz; Larry Herte (knee surgery). Sarah Nickols (gallbladder surgery) ECC parent; Leah Abelt's Father (healing & strength); Allyson Hengst (healing for her ankle); and Mariya (cancer).

*For our Homebound Members at Grace:* Betty Lemmer (hospice), Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Art Steinborn, Patricia Groth, and Gloria Kilponen, Doc Medek.

*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 2/1 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 2/4 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/4 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Adam Voss	Keith Goodle
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Miranda	Glenn Dotson	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Miranda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli
<u>Acolyte</u>	Elder	Abby Norton	Elder
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Nick Norton	Eric Kamprath
	Connie Roettgen	Drew Salzer	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	Martin 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!

### **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.

### **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](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! Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the New Member Potluck on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> as a kickoff to the Hunger Task Force fundraiser! Thank you for helping out those in need!!!

## Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024



### “St. John Passion”

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon Christ’s passion in dying on the cross to save us from our sins. Please note: **ASH WEDNESDAY** will be on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Thursday evening service that week. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion. Here is an overview of the series... From earliest days the Christian Church employed the weeks before Easter—what came to be called the season of Lent—as the time of the year to prepare candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the catechumenate. Paul wrote, *“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ*

*was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3–4). Baptism involves death, burial, and resurrection. During Lent, we discover that Jesus is not the only one who suffers, dies, and rises again. Our midweek Lenten services prepare us to consider our identity and connection with the Passion of Christ as the baptized children of God. We do so through the eyes of the Holy Evangelist, Saint John, as we hear, in John 18–19, of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, Jesus facing Annas and Caiaphas, Jesus before Pilate, Jesus delivered, Jesus crucified, and Jesus’ death and burial. Look for this Lenten season to provide a deeper understanding of your Baptism into the passion and death of Christ, with the result as Paul describes it: we are *“always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies”* (2 Corinthians 4:10).

1. February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (with communion, no Thursday Service this week) Ash Wednesday: “The Powerless “I Am,” John 18:1–11
2. February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 2: “Two Interrogations,” John 18:12–27
3. February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 3: What Kind of King Is This?” John 18:28–40
4. March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 4: “Whom Do We Follow?” John 19:1–16a
5. March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 5: “Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross,” John 19:16b–27
6. March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (no communion) Lenten Midweek 6: “Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation,” John 19:28–42
7. March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm (with communion) “Hey, It’s Not about Me!” Luke 14.12–14, Maundy Thursday
8. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (no communion) Good Friday “Our Lord Did This for You!” Psalm 22, 12pm-Noon Day Service
9. March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (no communion) “Real Life after Good Friday” Mark 15.33–34, 6:30pm Tenebrae Service (no communion)
10. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (no communion) “Larger than the Stone” Mark 16.1-8, 6am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service
11. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (with communion) “A Startling New Reality!” Mark 16:1–8 8:30am & 10am Easter Sunday Festival Service

## Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

### “Lamb of God”



In *Lamb of God*, we have God’s Son come to earth as the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Throughout John’s Gospel, Jesus is made known to us as both God and Man, full of grace and truth. He has come into the world to seek us out—you and me—to rescue us from the power of evil, and to make us His beloved children forever.

Jesus was born for sacrifice and servanthood. As God’s beloved Lamb, He intimately joined our lives in the flesh, compassionately healing, teaching, and loving us as our Good Shepherd. On the cross, He gave His life for our transgressions, and three days later He rose triumphant in victory over sin,

death, and the devil.

We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co- worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord’s passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

**What is Lent?** The season of Lent begins in February or March. The word *lent* has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for “spring,” *Lenz*. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin’s death. During the 40 days of Lent, God’s baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: *repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*. Lent is a time in which God’s people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people’s zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

**Customs:** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, “*Alleluia*.” Consider fasting during daylight hours. Spend your regular mealtime in prayer and devotional reading. If you cannot abstain from food for health reasons, abstain from something else (*e.g., television or another leisure activity*). Do not fast on Sundays, which are not part of the 40 days of Lent. Read Bible stories with children each day.



### **Easter Lilies/Plants**

To help make our Easter celebration more memorable, Milaeger's is offering a beautiful assortment of plants to celebrate the glorious Easter holiday. 1) Sign-up for your preferred flower/plant on sheets posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. 2) Enclose cash or check in the envelopes provided and place in offering basket or hand to an elder. **All money and orders need to be placed by February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

### **Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive**

The Evangelism Board along with the *Hunger Task Force* is holding their Annual Fund Drive **starting February 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jamellis2003@yahoo.com) or visit [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)

### **Save the Date! We will be having a Tea Party on March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm at Grace School!**

The theme: " My Cup Has Overflowed" from *John 13:4-5*. This will be a celebration before Easter. Please bring a kitchen towel to be exchanged, and you can choose a tea cup and saucer! We ask that those who would like to - share a time when God has made your cup overflow, with a few short words or story. If you would like to write something out and have one of us read your story, please let us know. If you would like to donate your favorite tea or hot chocolate, or if you have tea cups and saucers that you purchased for the Tea Party, please bring them to church and place them on the top of the coat rack in the entrance. You may also take them into the church office - or leave them outside the office door if no one is in. Please let Pauline know what you are donating at 414-764-5574. Please donate these items before the end of February. We will have small sandwiches, tea, hot chocolate, exchange of tea towels, dessert, and our special readings and our stories to share. It will be a fun afternoon of celebration! **An email was sent to you on February 1<sup>st</sup>, with a link to submit your RSVP to the event. There will also be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board at church. We hope to see you there!**



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

### **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 \$27,006.63 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Catechism:** Confession and the Office of the Keys: What is Confession? What sins should we confess? Which are these?

**Verse of the week:** Psalm 130:3-5, "*If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 84

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 607 "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" (stanzas 1-3)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— The Parable of the Sower and the Seed—Luke 8:4-15

**Monday**—Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1-10

**Tuesday**— The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 1)—Luke 15:11-24

**Wednesday**— The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 2)—Luke 15:25-32

**Thursday**— David's Sin with Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11:1-27

**Friday**— The Prophet Nathan Confronts David—2 Samuel 12:1-25

**Saturday**— The Anointing of David—1 Samuel 16:1-13

“Please rejoice in knowing prayer works and keep praying for the states who still haven’t banned abortions and for those states trying to ward off those who want to bring it back. We are not done praying and never will be. God is on our side, and He has a plan. We need to stand firm and with faith never give up praying. God controls the power of prayer, and He is amazing.” *Virginia Flo, 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](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Nature Abhors a Vacuum"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
What fills the heart that has no room to forgive? (Ephesians 4:32) **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

**THE NEWS TODAY CAN BE  
IT IS ONLY BY GOD’S GRACE THAT  
YOU ARE CALLED AND EQUIPPED  
TO BE IN HIS SERVICE.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...” (John 15:16).



**Stewardship Minute**— Psalm 31:15 reads, “*My times are in Your hands...*” All the time we have is a gift from God, and we are to be faithful stewards with His time. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will not get so wrapped up in ourselves and the ways of the world that we foolishly waste our time. Living wisely includes proper time for worship, time for service to others, and time for self-improvement and enrichment. “*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of time, because the days are evil*” (Ephesians 5:15-16). Whether God gives us long or short lives, our goal is to please Him by using our time faithfully.

**Growing in Grace  
January 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Offering**

General Offering	\$2973.00		
On-Line Giving	\$932.76		
Missions	\$10.00		
Debt Fund	\$0.00	<b>Total Attendance</b>	106
Mortgage Offering	\$0.00	<b>Total Communed</b>	91
Portals of Prayer	\$0.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3915.76</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	2/4	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 1:30-5:30 pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship New Member Class
Monday	2/5	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday		7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Minsitry Meeting
Wednesday		9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:15 pm	Ladies Bible Study All Board's Meeting Council Meeting
Thursday	2/8	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	2/9	-----	-----
Saturday	2/10	8:00 am 10:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Ladies Guild
Sunday	2/11	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Divine Worship New Member Potluck

## 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

