

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

The Second Sunday in Lent

February 25th, 2024

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



Image: "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (*Romans 5:3-5*)

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 "From Suffering to Hope"

Today we hear the apostle Paul proclaim something rather odd: that we can rejoice in our sufferings. Paul says this because—as he tells us—suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because our hope is in Jesus who died and is risen for us and our reconciliation and peace. That is something to rejoice in!

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 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be (vs. 1-4)

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 115:11-13, 18; antiphon: Psalm 25:6, read responsively)

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

You who fear the LORD, trust | in the LORD!*

He is their help | and their shield.

The LORD has remembered us; he will | bless us;*
he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of | Aaron;
he will bless those who | fear the LORD,*
both the small | and the great.
We will | bless the LORD*
from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the LORD!

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.

Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

Kyrie LSB 204

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

During Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted...

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 204

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

P Let us pray. O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

(God renames Abram as Abraham.)

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make

you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. . . .

¹⁵And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Hebrews 12:2, read responsively*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Grace Choir (10:30am only) “I Am Free”

Epistle Lesson *Romans 5:1-11*

(Christ died for the ungodly.)

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse for The Second Sunday in Lent “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (*Mark 8:34b*)

Holy Gospel Mark 8:27-38

(Jesus is the Christ who must suffer, die, and rise again.)

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

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

²⁷And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” ³⁰And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

³¹And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

³⁴And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ³⁷For what can a man give in return for his life? ³⁸For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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.

Sit

Children’s Message “From Hurt to Help to Hope” (Rom. 5:1-11) 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 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “A Death Dealing Diagnosis” (Mark 8:27-38)

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. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. 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

-423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (vs. 1-3)

-563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (vs. 1-6)

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, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and 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 433 Glory Be to Jesus (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**



*Altar Flowers provided by Lori Kachelmeier
In Memory of Husband Jim, and Son Steve*

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); 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; **Milan Kurg** (hospice) Leah Abelt’s Father; **Allyson Hengst** (healing for her ankle); and **Mariya** (cancer); and **Brooke Bzdawka** (healing & strength) relative of Sharon Bzdawka; **Jim Sauer** (healing & strength); **Jan Barrett** (healing & strength); **Donnie** (healing & strength) Morgan Parker’s Uncle.

For our Homebound Members at Grace: Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Art Steinborn, Patricia Groth, and Gloria Kilponen, Doc Medek.

We mourn with the families of **Dawn Jantz**, as they grieve over the death of her sister **Shirley**, and **Roy Lemmer**, as his family mourns the death of his mother, **Betty Lemmer**. We pray: *Almighty God, Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the families of Betty Lemmer & Shirley, as they mourn their deaths, 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 (John 14:19). Amen.*

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com. **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

Church Office:			414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Sunday 2/25 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/25 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Richard Jackson	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Glenn Dotson	Chris Cotter
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Abby Norton	Elder
<u>Ushers</u>	Nick Norton	Eric Kamprath
	Drew Salzer	Lisa Kamprath
		Martin Taggatz
<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.

Save the Date!!! Our Vacation Bible School this Summer will be taking place on Friday June 14th at Grace Lutheran School. We are in need of Teachers and Volunteers for our upcoming VBS. If you would like to help out, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent and VBS Coordinator, Jill Nowack at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org. Thanks for your consideration in helping out with this exciting event!!! The theme this year will be: "Dive In" - Come explore under the sea with us. VBS - 2024—Friday, June 14 starting with supper at 5:30 PM and VBS starts at 6:00 PM

Please join the Martin Luther Drama Department in the Worship Fine Arts Center at Martin Luther on March 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm and March 10 at 2:00 pm for this wonderful show. Two Households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona where we lay our scene...". These are the opening words to one of William Shakespeare's most well-known and well-loved plays. *Romeo and Juliet* tells the story of two star crossed teens who fall in love, regardless of the fact that their families have been fighting with each other for generations. Even though the audience knows the ending of the story, that Romeo and Juliet will die, we root for them and hope that they can find a way to be together. Ticket Prices are as follows: Reserved Center Seats: Adults: \$10. Senior Citizens, K-12, ML Staff & Students: \$5. General Admission: Adults: \$6.00. Senior Citizens & K-12" \$4.00. You can pay for tickets at Will Call on the day of the production. You can also bring or send your order in to: Martin Luther High School c/o Lisa Kamprath 5201 South 76th St. Greendale, WI 53129.

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 the Hunger Task Force fundraiser! Thank you for helping out those in need!!!

Save the Date! We will be having a Tea Party on March 16th, at 2:00pm at Grace School!

Theme: "My Cup Has Overflowed" from *John 13:4-5*. 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 1st, 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

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. I am looking to have the New Members Class on Sunday, March 17th 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 child-care. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

The Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 23rd at 3pm. DONATIONS NEEDED. This Easter Egg Hunt will be for preschool through 4th grade, and it will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. **We are asking for donations of already filled plastic Easter Eggs for this Easter Egg Hunt.** If you would like to drop off your donations, you can do so at church or at our Grace Lutheran School/Church office. We are inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!!

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.

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!

Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church



Ash Wednesday February 14th – Easter Sunday March 31st

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



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 and paid for by February 25th, 2024.**

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

A Place of Refuge TOUR Saturday, March 9-10:30am

Departing Grace School at 9:45am We are blessed to be given an opportunity to visit the newly remodeled APOR house, hear about their mission to assist mothers and their babies and to deliver our Blessings for Baby items. All are invited on this tour (men too), please let Jennifer Olen (414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com) know you will be attending and carpooling with us. If interested, we may stop at the Blessed Again resale store as well.

Altar Guild Opportunity! After many years of using her gifts to cross stitch Grace’s baptismal napkins, Debbie Oelke will be retiring her needle and scissors. We are looking for someone to take up their needle and scissors to make these beautiful keepsakes for those coming to the baptismal font. If you are interested or have questions about what is involved in making these, please reach out to Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com

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 \$27,126.63 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 THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar: Where is this written? (sung) What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Verse of the week: John 6:51, *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 121

Hymn of the week: LSB 562 “All Mankind Fell in Adam’s Fall” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28

Monday— The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-15, 31

Tuesday— The Water from Rock—Exodus 17:1-7

Wednesday— Jesus Forgives the Paralytic—Mark 2:1-17

Thursday— The Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-20

Friday— Touching the Hem of His Garment—Luke 8:40-56

Saturday— Jeremiah Preaches the Call to Repentance—Jeremiah 26:1-15

“Our Heavenly Father remains active and almighty, especially in the difficult circumstances that life issues involve. In joining Himself to us with His incarnation, wisdom, power, atonement, and resurrection, Jesus makes every human life blessed—and a blessing! He lovingly and ably handles decisions about welfare and affliction, life and death, so that we don’t have to do it on our own.” *Pastor Michael Salemink – 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 "When Winning Is Losing" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. In Christ, losing is winning and winning is losing. Dr. John Nunes explains what that means. (Mark 8:35-37) **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

**FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS
GIVING HONORS CHRIST'S
LORDSHIP**

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine"
(2 Corinthians 8:8).



Stewardship Minute— We are God’s instruments through which others hear and learn about Jesus and His love, grace, and mercy. As stewards of the Gospel, we have the opportunity to tell others of the greatest miracle that has ever occurred. The Son of God came to earth to live as one of us, to humble Himself for the sake of those He loves, and then to rise victoriously, the *“firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”* (1 Corinthians 15:20). This miracle is one to be shouted from the housetops, for it is meant not just for you and me, but for all humankind. Don’t keep this miracle a secret. Take time to tell it to your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Spend your resources so that others are enabled to be His witnesses to all people.

Growing in Grace - February 14th & 18th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$13,832.25		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$288.66		
<i>Missions</i>	\$20.00		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$	<i>Total Attendance</i>	131
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$95.00	<i>Total Communed</i>	120
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00		
Total	\$14,235.91		

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	2/25	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		10:30 am	Divine Worship
Monday	2/26	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	2/27	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	2/28	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	2/29	6:30 pm	Lent & Divine Worship
Friday	3/1	-----	-----
Saturday	3/2	-----	-----
Sunday	3/3	8:00 am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		10:30 am	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

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