

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 3rd, 2024

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And He poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And He told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make My Father’s house a house of trade.” (John 2:13-16)

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 “Disruptive Jesus”

In our Gospel today, we find Jesus clearing the temple of all those who have made it a house of trade. Jesus disrupts not just the sinfulness of these practices, showing a different side of Him than we expect to see. He also disrupted the status quo—*everyday realities that had come to be accepted in the temple*. May Jesus so disrupt our lives where it is needed.

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 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory (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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 20:1-17*

(God offers the Ten Commandments for the people He delivered from Egypt.)

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

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.

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

(We preach Christ crucified.)

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

Stand

During Lent, the Alleluia is omitted...

Verse for The Third Sunday in Lent *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”*
(John 2:19)

Holy Gospel *John 2:13-22*

(Jesus cleanses the temple.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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 “A Better Gift than Any We Could Make . . . Or Break” (John 2:13-22) 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 579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise (vs. 1-4, 6)

Sermon “Why Do We Believe in Jesus?” (John 2:13-22)

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

-575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (vs. 1-4)

-645 Built on the Rock (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, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal. Keep us steadfast in the true faith, ever hearing and proclaiming Christ crucified for all; through the same 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.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (vs. 1-4)

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); 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); 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, Roy Lemmer, as his family mourns the death of his mother, Betty Lemmer, and Leah Abelt, as they mourn the death of her father, Milan Kurg. We pray: *Almighty God, Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the families of Betty Lemmer, Shirley, and Milan Kurg, 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 3/3 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/3 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Erica Vitek	Jennifer Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Kathryn Szefflinski	Kathryn Szefflinski
	Morgan Parker	Morgan Parker
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Abby Norton	Ethan Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Henry Tindall	Ron Savarino
	Benjamin Tindall	Lowell Johnson
		Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Livestream</u>	Glenn Dotson	

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.

Lutheran Schools Night, Saturday, April 27. Join us for a night of family fun as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the New York Yankees, 6:10 PM. You can select seats from the Loge Outfield Box (where our group has been in past years) or from outfield box, infield box or terrace infield seats. Tickets range from \$15-\$59. You can also purchase a parking pass in advance.. For groups of 10+, please contact Teddy Sibilski, Milwaukee Brewers. If you are ordering tickets for a group, you can forward tickets via text or email to individuals Ballpark App. Purchase your tickets online at <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranschools24> or scan the QR code by April 12. Questions? Contact Robin, SWD, mueller@swd.lcms.org. Go Brewers!

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. Our Bible lesson will be in 1 Samuel 20 where, Jonathan Serves God by helping David. The Bible Verse for the evening will be, "*Serve one another in love*" (Galatians 5:13). The sea creature will be a dolphin.

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

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 \$27,176.63 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written? (sung) Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Verse of the week: 1 Corinthians 11:26, "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

Psalm of the week: Psalm 4

Hymn of the week: LSB 616 "Baptismal Waters Cover Me" (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— A House Divided—Luke 11:14-28

Monday— People Crave Meat—Numbers 11:4-6, 10, 13, 18-23, 31-34

Tuesday— The Feeding of the Five Thousand—John 6:1-21

Wednesday— The Twelve Apostles—Mark 3:17-19/Office of the Keys

Thursday— Jesus Is the Bread from Heaven—John 6:22-44

Friday— Jesus Is Rejected by His Own—John 6:47-69

Saturday— The Time of Favor—Isaiah 49:8-13

“[W]e were made for light and life. God’s Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation ... cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope.” *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.*

LUTHERAN HOUR "Included in Such Company" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The more you listen to the life of Jesus, the more you admire Him and the more grateful you are to be included in His company. (Mark 10:13-45) **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

**AS GOD’S STEWARDS, WE KNOW
THAT WHAT WE ARE AND HAVE
ARE BY GOD’S GRACE.**

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).



Stewardship Minute— God, Who first loved us, enables our faithful response to His love and grace. Because He fills us with His love, we are compelled to share that love with others (2 Corinthians 5:14). As forgiven and grateful people, we demonstrate our love and thanks for what God has done and continues to do for us through the faithful use of our lives and resources. Living out our faith in gratitude and obedience is stewardship. As God’s stewards, we recognize that our stewardship flows out of God’s love for us in Christ, which empowers us, in turn, to show love to others by acts of Christ-like love.

Easter Breakfast - Sunday, March 31st: Our Youth Group will be hosting a Potluck Easter Breakfast at the school from 7-9:00am on Easter Sunday. Please RSVP and sign up for a dish to share. A freewill offering will be taken to support our Youth Group. Thank you for your support!

Growing in Grace - February 22nd & 25th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2937.50	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1565.72	
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$15.00	Total Attendance 131
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	Total Communed 64
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$20.00	
Total	\$4538.22	

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	3/3	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	3/4	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	3/5	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	3/6	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study All Boards Meeting
Thursday	3/7	6:30 pm	Lent & Divine Worship
Friday	3/8	-----	-----
Saturday	3/9	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	3/10	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

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

