

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Easter Sunday

March 31st, 2024

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



Image: "Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation: Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated." (*Opening Sentences*)

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 "A Startling New Reality!"

Those who followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem had hopes and fears, but their experience was within what they expected. So, Isaiah's prophecy, which we shall hear again today, was one of those things that didn't seem to apply, for it was too much of a change to take seriously. And the news from the angel at the tomb went far beyond that! Life after death challenged every understanding so directly that the women were startled into fear-driven silence—at least for a time. That very day others would hear the news and soon many would see Jesus Himself, as Paul tells us in the Epistle. Today is a day to embark on a life based on the startling new reality that death is not the final word for anyone with faith in Christ. How then shall we live before we see Him ourselves?

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

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

Order of Service...as outlined in your bulletin...

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24*

Pastor: The light of Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: All of you choirs of angels and saints in heaven before us:

People: Rejoice at Christ's victory over death.

Pastor: Now, heaven and earth, even all of creation:

People: Rejoice, for the eternal darkness has been defeated.

Pastor: Rejoice, brothers and sisters in Christ both here and around the world!

People: Our Lord has kept all God's promises!

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" (LSB 478 vs. 1-4)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We cannot enter God's presence as we are. Our sinful condition falls short of the glory of God. Let us therefore give voice to those sins, confessing our faults and failures to one another and to God Himself.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! God has not merely overlooked your faults; He has not missed your failures; and He knows the frailty of the human condition. Rather, He became one of us as Jesus, who died to pay for every sin or yours and your sinfulness itself. Jesus not only paid the penalty; on this day our heavenly Father proclaimed to all the world that He accepted the payment. Your sins are forgiven indeed! In the stead and by the command of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Lord of Life, Creator of all things, by Your mighty power You raised Your Son, our Savior, to life from death.

People: We cannot understand this startling reversal, but pray that You keep us ever mindful of this good news so that we may live each day in triumphant gladness;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Grace Choir “You Get the Glory”

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 25:6-9*

(When the Lord swallows up death, it will be like having the best feast ever prepared.)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL (*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, read responsively*)

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet.

Grace Choir “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

EPISTLE LESSON *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

(Paul, persecutor of Christians, is one of many people who saw Jesus alive after death.

The news is of primary importance for people of faith.)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia Verse for Easter Sunday *“Alleluia. [Christ Jesus] abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia.”* (2 Timothy 1:10b)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 16:1-8*

(The women are so shocked by the news of the resurrection that they initially tell no one.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

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.

SERMON HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (LSB 457 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “A Startling New Reality!” (Mark 16:1-8)

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

Pastor: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. He lives to intercede for us before the Father. With confidence, let us present to God our petitions for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus. For the holy Christian Church throughout the world, that it may be found without fault at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all believers in the Lord Jesus that their lives may testify to His resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, that a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those in positions of public trust in all levels of government, that they may serve justice and promote the welfare and dignity of every person, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who suffer because of poverty, persecution, or sickness, [*especially . . .*], and all others we name in our hearts [*silence*], that they may know the healing power of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who grieve because of the death of their loved ones, [*especially . . .*], that through the sure hope of the resurrection of Christ, God would wipe away the tears from their eyes and give them comfort, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth God's glory in all that we do, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who come this day to the feast of our Lord's body and blood, that their faith be strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed good, right, and salutary that we should in every time and place thank and praise You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But today we praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He took our sins to the cross and yet arose, destroying death in the process and opening eternal life to us. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him into death that we might have life. Though we cannot understand Your love or comprehend eternity, we cannot keep the startling news to ourselves. Move us, we pray and strengthen us through this Sacrament to serve as Your witnesses.

People: Give us opportunity, use our gifts, and move us by Your Holy Spirit to tell the startling news of Jesus' victory over death until faith gives way to sight and we gather around the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Pastor: 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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: 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

-“The Lamb” (LSB 547 vs. 1-5)

-“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” (LSB 619 vs. 1-5)

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE 774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy

1 Feed Thy children, God most holy;
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,
Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish,
May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav’nly splendor
At Thy feast due thanks we render.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You have refreshed us through this gift of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Strengthen us by this Sacrament to live in the startling reality that Christ is alive and with us each day until we join saints and angels around His banquet table; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: 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 ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (LSB 461 vs. 1-4, 8)

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Tom Janes (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder); Cindy Riemer (cancer); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength); Jim & Kari (healing and strength); Greg Voss (healing & strength); Curt Bayer (cancer) former member of Grace; Sindy Schmidt (healing); 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); Scott (kidney failure); Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); Rachel Goodle (prayers for God's strength); Daniel Abelt (cancer); and Alyssa (healing & strength); Stephanie (pregnant with twins); Sabrina (cancer); Lori Jablonski (cancer) and Jessie Marshall (healing & strength) friend of Cathy Weeks; Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); Craig (stem cell transplant); Sara Keno (seizures); Dale Schmidt (Huntington's Disease); and Mike Zanardi (pancreatic cancer); Sharon McCaigue (cancer); and Cheryl (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; 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; Jan Barrett (healing & strength); Donnie (healing & strength) Morgan Parker's Uncle; Brixton (healing & strength) Great Grandson of Ron & Mary Savarino; Bob (healing & strength) relative of Pauline Parker; Sue de Shano (broken ankle) sister of Carol Loveall.

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

Special thanks to Mrs Lisa Hengst, our organist, & Mr. Eric Kamprath & our Grace Lutheran Brass Ensemble for the wonderful music that they have provided for us today as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Thank you for using your talents to glorify our Savior on this wonderful day!

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 3/31 6:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/31 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/31 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Adam Voss	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>		Cris Evers	Chris Cotter
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	*No Communion*	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Ushers</u>	Kathy Szefflinsk	Henry Tindall Benjamin Tindall	Ron Savarino Lowell Johnson Tatiana Concepcion Ethan Concepcion
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	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.

Experience the Holy Land, Plus Optional Egypt Extension!!! This Holy Land Tour will be hosted by LCMS Pastors Aaron Koch & Tony Oliphant from March 17-26, 2025. The cost is \$4627 from Chicago, IL. Details for the trip can be located in the church narthex. Questions? Please contact Pastor Aaron Koch at: 414-795-9005 or pastor.koch@gmail.com. Register online at: registernow.ittworld.com. Tour code: Koch25. Early bird savings off the total trip cost with your initial deposit of \$500!!!

Lutheran Schools Night, Saturday, April 27th. 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.

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!

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 \$27,676.63 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!)*

Join us for Financial Peace University!!! Learn to take control of your money, attack debt with a vengeance, and pay it off fast. Save for emergencies. Choose the right insurance plans. Invest wisely and build wealth. Give generously (the best part). When: Monday's April 8 through May 20 Time: 6 PM to 8 PM Where: The Art/Science Room at Grace Lutheran School Cost: \$20 (for the workbook) Questions: Call Lisa Kamprath at 414-659-0161.

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.

A huge thank you to Thrivent Financial!! Please join us in thanking Thrivent for all the help they give us at Grace over the years, to sponsor so many of the events that we hold, and for purchasing stamps for our Prayer Ministry, over \$2,373.00 and over 4 since December 2019 ver 4510 stamps. (This is not just from the Fellowship and Prayer Ministry but for all of Grace)

IN THE WORD FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Catechism: Creed—Second Article

Verse of the week: 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8, “*Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 16

Hymn of the week: LSB 467 “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord—Mark 16:1-8

Monday— The Emmaus Disciples—Luke 24:13-35

Tuesday— The Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:36-49

Wednesday— The Resurrection Catch—John 21:1-14

Thursday— Jesus Reinstates Peter—John 21:15-25

Friday— The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-18

Saturday— The Valley of the Dry Bones—Ezekiel 37:1-14

“The disciples and the first century Christians may have felt like they were on the losing side. They had their doubts and fears. Maybe you do, too. They may have lost some earthly things. You may, too. But Jesus takes away the fear and the doubt. You have hope in His resurrection. You have hope even through the trials of life. You have a living hope in your living Lord.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Hurting from an abortion or going through a crisis pregnancy? Call 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "Eucatastrophe" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The top three best-selling books all present visions of hope, but how they hope to achieve it is a much different story. (Mark 16:6-7) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at:** lhm.org scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ 103.3 FM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

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

Stewardship Minute *“Go and Tell Christ Is Risen!”*

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Resurrection Chapter, the Apostle Paul writes, *“What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins...that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...”* (1 Corinthians 15: 3). Through Christ’s Resurrection, God assures us that we are forgiven and that we, too, will rise again. Surely this is the message of first importance that we as stewards of our Risen Lord and Savior will desire to pass on. Go and tell that Christ is risen!

The text "He is Risen" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The letters are fluid and connected, with a classic, slightly formal feel. The "H" and "R" are particularly large and prominent.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, without Your gracious aid I would be forever in the depths, forever bound to sin, forever lost. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and life You have given me through Your Son, Christ, my Redeemer. Help me boldly go out and tell others that Christ is risen! In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*

Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Easter Breakfast - Sunday, March 31st: Our Youth Group will be hosting an Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday following our Easter Sunrise Service and before our 8:30 and 10am Easter Sunday Worship Services. Breakfast will be served from 7am-8:20am and 9:30-9:50am. **Please sign up in the church narthex or send an email to our church email address to let us know how many in your family are coming to:** church@graceoakcreek.org. A freewill offering will be taken to support our Youth Group. Thank you for your support!

Grief Share Group starting on March 11th at Grace Lutheran School—No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? On March 11th we are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran Church Oak Creek. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It’s a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord’s help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group meets on Monday evenings at Grace Lutheran School March 11th-the middle of June 2024 from 6:30-8:30pm in the School Library. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Oak Creek, WI. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *“Is This Normal?”* *“The Challenges of Grief,”* *“Grief and Your Relationships,”* *“Why?”* and *“Guilt and Anger.”* For more information, call our Church office at 414-762-8990 or email us at: church@graceoakcreek.org

Growing in Grace – March 22nd & March 24th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$4308.00		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1193.21		
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	Total Attendance	40/125
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	Total Communed	80
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00		
Total	\$5501.21		

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	3/31	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am 10:00 am	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday Festival Service Easter Sunday Festival Service
Monday	4/1	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Tuesday	4/2	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	4/3	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study All Boards Meeting
Thursday	4/4	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	4/5	-----	-----
Saturday	4/6	8:30 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	4/7	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship - Palm Sunday Adult Bible Study Sunday School 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
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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
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