



Equipper

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.

April 2024



Pastor's Message

“The One & Only Source for Abundant Life!!!”

(Jesus said) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

I think it is fair to say that these days we are often terrifying our people, young and old. People are constantly being told that all is lost, our planet is doomed, and there is no hope for humanity (unless, of course, you vote for the right people and joyfully give them control of your life and your tax monies, etc.). We live in a time of both manufactured and real crises, coupled with more and more arrogant leaders with even more brazen claims for solutions. (Do you remember when a newly elected politician said that “today the rising of the seas slows and the planet begins to heal?” Really?) When the arrogance of sinful people continues to disappoint us, when our own incapacities and self-doubt get the best of even the “best” of us, it makes Jesus statement above in John 10 even more amazing and timely. Here's the point, in the middle of present day chaos, as well as in moments of peace and prosperity, Jesus says, “I have come that they may have life,” and He offers that full, lasting life to each and every one of us.

What an incredible statement! You can have your health, you can have incredible wealth, you can have the whole wisdom of the world today with access to the most sophisticated technologies, but if you don't have Christ, you are missing out on life, period. On the other hand, if Jesus Christ is your Savior, in Him there is abundant, eternal life in the middle of struggle, chaos, war, suffering, and even pain. He is the only source for eternal, abundant life. Everything else and everyone else will leave you wanting in the end.

In the context of today's verse, Jesus even warns us to that effect (see John 10:7-13). He's telling us not to try to go it alone (as if we could) and not to look to anything in this world besides Him for the kind of life that lasts. Jesus has to remind us of that again and again because we can be so over-confident in ourselves. We have to learn that life this side of heaven is fraught with danger, destruction, and despair. Couple that with the fact that there are “thieves” all over the place in this world seeking to steal from us what only God can give. Satan, the world, and even our sinful flesh are constantly trying to convince us that the source of enduring life is anything other than Jesus. Don't let that happen to you! Don't let anything or anyone steal your heart and your soul away from the living God! Don't let anyone steal the abundant life that Jesus wants you to have in Him.

Many of us today are really worried about protecting our physical health and our material wealth. There's nothing wrong with those, when kept in their proper perspective. But you should care even more for your spiritual and emotional health as keys to abundant living. Care most of all for that life which is rooted in the person and work of "God in the flesh," Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again so that you can have abundant, eternal life in Him! Don't become so preoccupied with anything else which leaves the doors of your soul unguarded, or worse, wide open for the thieves in this world.

Jesus talks straight today. He says that, in the face of death itself, He Himself is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). This is not some sleight of hand. Jesus earned the right to say this to you and me when He died our death to give us His life. Don't let anyone tell you that there is anything in heaven or earth greater than His offer of life and salvation which are received through repentance and faith in Him. So, will it be thieves, robbers, or Jesus Christ? When it comes to abundance, eternal security, and the power to energize life now and forever, there's only one true, reliable, and lasting source. In the midst of everything today, put your trust in Him, alone.

Prayer – Dear Lord Jesus, give me the courage that comes from faith in You. Enlighten and empower me to realize that even having everything this world can provide is nothing compared to the abundant life that comes from knowing and trusting in You alone. Amen.

See you in worship,

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Pastor Taggatz



GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice

based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. *****Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

A huge thank you to Thrivent Financial!! Please join us in thanking Thrivent for all the help they have given 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 since December 2019 and over 4510 stamps. (This is not just from the Fellowship and Prayer Ministry but for all of Grace)

Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990...

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary

Church office: 414.762.8990

Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm

REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.

**The Mites collection dates
for April: 4th and 6th**



When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Steve Gettelman. His email address is: principal@graceoakcreek.org

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: [graceoc](https://www.graceoakcreek.org) to 206-859-9405, use this [QR Code](https://www.graceoakcreek.org) or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](https://www.graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



Grace Ladies Guild

April Meeting

Saturday, April 20 9am-11am

Zone 1 Spring Rally at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran - 3353 S. Whitnall Ave, Milwaukee

Deaconess Grace Rao, Executive Director of A Place of Refuge

Gifts from the Heart items: Laundry detergent-allergy sensitive, Dryer Sheets-allergy sensitive

Young Women of Grace!

Are you: Attending an higher educational institution of the LCMS for the 2024-2025 academic year? Enrolled in undergraduate studies for full time church work in the LCMS? A resident of the South Wisconsin District? The LWML South Wisconsin District offers Female Church Worker's Scholarships to encourage and support those preparing to serve our church and synod. Applications are now being accepted. www.lwml-swd.org/scholarships

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

Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Ladies Wednesday Morning Bible Study has started a new Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. It is entitled, "God's Provision in a Wilderness World" by [Lindsay Hausch](#) through **Concordia Publishing House**. In this Bible Study we will learn that for the Israelites wandering through the wilderness and us, God's manna is a gift wrapped in struggle. This example of God providing manna invites us to look at our present life—with its bittersweet beauty—and see how our Creator is blessing us with His gifts in our everyday struggles. The forty studies in this book will lead you through the Book of Exodus as the Israelites wander through the wilderness, pointing you to what God wants you to know and apply to your own life. This women's Bible study is broken up into eight weeks, with five sessions per week, for a total of forty studies. Our culture is a wilderness where our effort to satisfy our needs with things of this world leaves our hearts empty and aching for more. Every day, no matter where you wander, God invites you to take time in His Word and re-center your heart on Him. God's provision for you is personal. He meets you where you are. And He gives you what you need.

We meet on Wednesday mornings at church at 9:30 a.m. All women of our congregation are invited to attend.

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Saturday, April 13th and 27th

8:00am-9:30am at School

Flowing from the Cross: Six Facets of God's Forgiveness by Daniel Paavola (Available through Concordia Publishing House.) Join us for fellowship while being in God's Word! All ladies are invited!



Sign-up for 2024 Altar Flowers!

The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex. Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.

Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.

You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.

Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.

Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist.

Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.

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.



Grace Lutheran Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly. *'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.'* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten.

If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the Church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-764-5574 or paulinemom@aol.com

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.

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!)

Save the Date

43rd Annual Dinner Auction

Friday, April 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Fiserv Forum

1111 Vel R. Phillips Avenue | Milwaukee
Garage Parking will be validated.

Cocktails (open bar) & Hors d'oeuvres
Atrium & Main Concourse

Formal Sit-Down Dinner
Arena Floor

Live & Silent Auctions

After-Glo Party
Potawatomi Club Deck

\$200 per person | \$1,750 table of 10

Join us as we celebrate 120 years of Lutheran Education at our 43rd annual fundraising event for Milwaukee Lutheran, Martin Luther, Lake Country Lutheran, Mount Calvary, and Trinity Lutheran Classical Schools.

For more information, or if you would like to sponsor, donate an item, or volunteer your time, please contact Shari DeBaal.

414.421.9100 x908 or SDEBRAAL@LHSAGM.ORG

REGISTER TODAY BY GOING TO THIS LINK:

<https://lhsagm.ejoinme.org/ONE>

SAVE THE DATE!!

Coffee and Baked Goods Fellowship - After Services at Church

Thursday, April 18th

Sunday, April 21st

Thursday, May 16th

Sunday, May 19th



Ice Cream Social

Thursday June 6th

Sunday June 9th

**If you would like to bake for the Coffee Fellowship please let Pauline know.*

June 14th & 15th, 2024

2024 LWML SWD Convention - Chosen to Love and Serve, Bethlehem Lutheran, Sun Prairie

Registration is now open for the 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML South Wisconsin District. A two-day convention has been planned at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, WI on Saturday, June 14-15, 2024. The theme for the convention is "Chosen to Love and Serve" and is based on Colossians 3:12 ESV, Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Guest speaker is Carolyn Blum, author, archivist, and former LWML SWD President. Registration and more information are available online at lwml-swd.org/events/conventions.

Plan now to join us at convention!

Saturday, April 27th

Lutheran Schools Night! 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://fevoenterprise.com/event/Lutheranschools24> or scan the QR code by April 12. Questions? Contact Robin, SWD, mueller@swd.lcms.org. Go Brewers!

Vacation Bible School this Summer will be 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 The Bible Verse for the evening will be, "Serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13). The sea creature will be a dolphin.

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.



Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive

*The Evangelism Board finished their drive for Hunger Task Force! We raised **\$535.00**, and **128 pounds** of peanut butter was donated! A very big thank you to everyone who donated to this charitable cause!*

Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 21st following our 10:30am worship service.

At this Voters Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, discuss about the church & school furnace fundraiser, the treasurer's report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voters meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated. The election of officers will take place at the Voter's meeting in June of this year.

Are You Interested in Serving on a Church Board?

Elections are coming up for various boards at our Church at our June Voter's Meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace Lutheran Church? Please consider contacting the Church Office and we will let you know what responsibilities each board position has. We will also connect you with the current board members who are serving so that you can ask them questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin in July of 2024.

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.

FLAME IS COMING TO MILWAUKEE!!!!

On April 27, Lutheran Rap artist and Concordia Seminary St. Louis graduate (Master of Arts in Religion) will be headlining a community outreach event at Hope Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Now is the time to save the date. More information on tickets to the event will be coming out soon!



FLAME is a GRAMMY® nominated and Stellar Award winning hip-hop artist. He is a well-versed leader in the Christian hip-hop scene with a growing list of accolades, including a GRAMMY® nomination, several Dove and Stellar Award nominations, and multiple Billboard chart toppers. He was born and raised in the inner city of St. Louis, MO. He has released 9 albums to date including *Captured* (2010), *The 6th* (2012), *RoyalFlush* (2013), *Forward* (2015), Stellar Award-winning *God Knows* (2018), *Extra Nos EP* (2020), *DayBreak EP* (2020), and *Christ For You EP* (2021) under his own imprint.

For over a decade, FLAME has traveled throughout North America & the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and Asia performing music that has impacted the masses. In addition to touring, writing, recording and co-producing his own projects, FLAME founded and helms Clear Sight Music, a burgeoning record label raising the bar in Christian hip-hop and beyond. He has a Master's degree in theology with a minor in counseling.

Stephen Ministries

Our Stephen Ministry will be celebrating our 20th anniversary this coming year, we have had many Stephen Ministers over the 20 years, some who have moved on, some who have passed away and some who still enjoy being Stephen Ministers.

We will be starting new classes in the Fall, for those who would like to become Stephen Ministers. We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. The classes are held at Church on a Sunday evening. You will have 52 hours of training and skill learning. In the past I have put in the equipper many letters and notes from Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers from around the country, about how Stephen Ministry has been a blessing to them. I would like to send out some remarks from our very own Stephen Ministers here at Grace over the next few months to give you an idea of how blessed they have been by being a Stephen Minister and walking beside those in need, and sharing God's Word with them.

Letting God be the Cure Giver and us, the Stephen Ministers, being the Care Giver

Pauline Parker

The Stephen Ministry training was very good. The role playing and information classes helped to prepare me for becoming a Stephen Minister, teaching me what to say, how to say it, and what not to say that would be hurtful to my Care Receiver and would hinder why I am there to help my Care Receiver.

The classes have taught me so many skills that I had never thought of in my daily life. How to listen more and how to be more confidential in what people say to me. How to deal with family crisis better in my life and how to know how to deal with problems that may be different than I have dealt with before. Stephen Ministry helps us to learn how to open our hearts to others.

I think I have become a better person. I have a better understanding of the other persons needs of their situations. I have more empathy for them. It helps in my family situations as well. My family seeks me out in their times of need. I feel people trust me more knowing that I keep things confidential and it helps me with the prayer line, as people tell me their needs that they don't want included with their prayers. Trust and confidentiality are so important.

Watching God work in my Care Receiver is amazing, knowing that when I pray for them God seems to put the right words in my mouth and that he also works in me, when I look for the right Bible passage and a reading, and think of a prayer to say, they seem to be what is needed. It is amazing how God works just what is needed. God works for good in my care receiver and in me. God is the cure giver, I am there to do his work

Lori Kachelmeier

I thought the training was done very well. There was a good amount of lecturing, interactive role playing and discussion. It was very thorough and interesting, giving great examples of scenarios you may encounter as a Stephen Minister.

My Stephen Ministries skills have helped me when I have family members or friends talk to me about issues they are having in their live,. it helps me to be a better listener. I want to keep confidential what they confide in me. I always want to strive to be a better trusted servant.

The program has taught me that I can't cure anyone else. I can listen and pray bot ultimately God will help the other person heal or find the answer to their problem. I have more empathy for people. The Stephen Ministry program in St. Louis is always working to help us be better at relating to people with Christ's love.

The caring relationships I have been in have given me great joy and satisfaction that I can be a servant for God with my care receiver. My desire has gown for studying God's Word and to know Him better so I can grow as a Christian and do his work with His guidance.

If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister or know someone who would be interested please talk to Pastor, Jeanne Meyer or Lori Kachelmeier.

Made New to Serve

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:3-4). We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We are not bound to obey our evil natures. The Holy Spirit empowers us as new creations to offer ourselves to God as His instruments of righteousness. He equips us to do the good works that He has “prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

Having put away the sinful flesh and having put on Christ by God’s grace, we are freed, empowered, and equipped to be the stewards God has created us to be. The Holy Spirit builds faith in us and works renewal in our lives, so that we are no longer slaves to sin but alive in Christ. As we tap into God’s rich supply of His sanctifying power, we are enabled to live lives of service and generosity.

Stewardship Corner



Blessings on your stewardship journey!

“Financial Advice with Purpose” The phrase “Financial Advice with Purpose” is a short, thoughtful slogan used by Thrivent Financial Services. What is so intriguing about this catch phrase is the word “purpose.” We are not aware as to how Thrivent defines purpose, but, in God’s Word, we discover different purposes for our money.

The first important purpose for our money is to provide for our needs and for those of our families. Money is needed for food, shelter, transportation, and clothing. In the words of the Apostle Paul, “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). We are to make every attempt to provide for our needs so we won’t be a burden to others. We express God’s love by caring and providing for our families.

A second important purpose for our money is to help those in need. In the Gospel of Matthew we read, “For you always have the poor with you...” (Matthew 26:11). When Paul started his ministry of sharing the Gospel, he was “asked...to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do” (Galatians 2:10). With joy, we should have that same attitude. God wants to use us as His channels through whom He works to support those in need. Our help goes beyond the poor to the handicapped, the sick, the widows, the orphans, etc.

Another important purpose for our money is to extend God’s kingdom. God gives us the privilege and responsibility to be participants in His mission “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Our heavenly Father does not want anyone to “perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in His plan of salvation for all people. As participants with the Lord, we become His hands, feet, and mouth. To share the Gospel with all people costs money and that money comes from us. God works through us to fund the mission and ministries that share Jesus’ love.

In order to fulfill our purposes to have the funds for our needs, to help those in need, and to spread the Gospel, we need to be money wise. We are unable to be generous if we are drowning in debt and living paycheck to paycheck. By God’s grace, we can live within our means, spend wisely, avoid debt, save diligently, insure adequately, and give freely. One of our money goals should be to live wisely to share generously. With God’s help, we will hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).



Rev. Dr. Ross and Kris Shaver Visiting Grace Oak Creek on Thursday April 11th !!!

Serving the Lord in the Dominican Republic Rev. Dr. Ross Shaver and his family will be joining us at Grace Lutheran on Thursday April 11th . He will be preaching at our Thursday evening worship service and then he will be giving a talk about his missionary work in the Dominican Republic. The Evangelism Committee will be serving light refreshments following the worship service for Pastor Shaver's speech on LCMS mission work in the Dominican Republic.

Pastor Shaver is a classmate of Pastor Taggatz, they both graduated from Concordia Seminary St. Louis in 2007. We look forward to having Pastor Shaver and his family with us on Thursday April 11th!!! Bio of Pastor Shaver and Family: The Rev. Dr. Ross and Kris Shaver serve the Lord as missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Dominican Republic. As a church planter and theological educator, Ross works with mission churches in the area, mentors future pastors in practice and theology, and assists in the formation of congregational leadership in conjunction with Concordia the Reformer Seminary. Ross is originally from Roswell, N.M. He has a bachelor's degree in liberal studies/international studies from Oregon State University; a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and a doctorate in Pastoral Care and Leadership from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Prior to becoming a missionary, he served as pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Homedale, Idaho (2007–2011), and Zion Lutheran Church and School, Nampa, Idaho (2011–2024). In his free time, he enjoys camping, leathercraft, reading and spending time with family.

Kris's hometown is Bakersfield, Calif. She has an associate degree in child development from Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, Calif., and a bachelor's degree in liberal studies (with an emphasis in education) from Concordia University Irvine, Irvine, Calif. Kris has held several jobs in education, including as assistant director of residential life at Concordia, Irvine; as a teacher at Zion Lutheran School, Nampa, Idaho; and as administrative assistant for the College of Idaho's education department. In her free time, she enjoys sewing, knitting, spending time with family, baking, camping, reading and gardening. Prayers Pray for the Shavers as they serve in the Dominican Republic. Ask God to give them comfort, strength and guidance as they transition to a new location, language and culture. In addition, pray that they would share Christ's love with everyone they meet. Give thanks to God that the Shavers are serving His children in this part of the world.

Giving Online: You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of the SHAVER family by going to this website: <https://www.lcms.org/Shaver> Giving by Check: You can also make a donation towards this family's ministry by check. Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated with their last name, to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

(Or call 888-930-4438 to speak with someone.)

Footsteps of Paul and Glories of Greece Tour



Join Pastor Doug Schroeder as we tour Thessaloniki (Thessalonica), Athens, Kalambaka, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, and Crete! We will be departing **July 19, 2024**, and the tour is 8 days, \$4,298 including airfare and hotels. An additional 3-day cruise will have shore excursions to Patmos, Ephesus, and Santorini, at \$1,298.

This is a rare departure from Pastor Doug's Holy Land tours. Let's see these wonderful locations! Full details are on their website: ourshepherdlutheran.org.

Tour the Holy Land in Lent of 2025!

There is something special about meditating on the Scriptures in the very places where the events occurred. Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield will be leading a tour back to the Holy Land next March. Destinations include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Qumran, Masada, and of course the temple mount, Gethsemane, and the places of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem. We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. PLUS there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes a \$500 registration to hold your spot for this tour. Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. (There are discounts if you register before May 17th.) Just go to registernow.ittworld.com and put in the tour code Koch25 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. And if you have any questions, feel free to call Pastor Koch at: 414-795-9005 or email him at: pastor.koch@gmail.com. We hope you'll be able to take part in this great experience!



We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center. However, most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the...

...Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!



Facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church, School & Early Childhood Center, Oak Creek, WI



Instagram:

gracelutheran_oakcreek

SCRIP at Grace Lutheran Church, School & ECC

Did you know that Grace Lutheran Church Sells SCRIP??? Scrip is a **No-Cost Fundraiser** that helps to support the ministries here at Grace for our Lutheran Church, School, and ECC. Scrip is gift cards that we buy from various restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores to name a few and then sell at face value to you. Examples include: Woodmans, Kwik Trip, Meijer, Menards, Culvers, Kohls, to name a few. Each merchant sets their own discount percentage, so some scrip purchases “earn more” than others. The gift cards you buy and then use at these stores our Church, School, and ECC earns a certain percentage of the purchase from the retailer that you shop at. Gail Nowakowski is our new Scrip Coordinator. If you are interested in Scrip please contact our Church office. We sell Scrip after each of our worship services, if you would like to take a look at what Scrip cards you can buy to help support the ministries of Grace.



HAPPY
Birthday!

May God bless you with an abundance of peace, joy, and love this coming year.

Happy Anniversary!

- 4/1 Amber Juarez
- 4/6 Janice Barrett
- 4/6 Patrick Curran
- 4/6 Jacob Lutzke
- 4/6 Martin Tagatz
- 4/7 Hannah Pulkownik
- 4/7 Kristine Vangalis
- 4/8 Kristen Willms
- 4/10 Amy Morris
- 4/12 Beth Stone
- 4/13 Phillip Herzog
- 4/13 Michelle Rekowski
- 4/14 Duane Lussier
- 4/16 Brendan Simmons
- 4/17 Diane Pielsnik
- 4/18 David Pankow Jr.
- 4/19 Samantha Dotson
- 4/19 Sam Stone
- 4/20 Kayleigh Urbaniak
- 4/21 Andrea Kisley
- 4/21 Matthew Scherer
- 4/22 Brady Beaudoin
- 4/24 Donald Stewart

- 4/26 Riley Edgerton
- 4/26 Michael Huber
- 4/26 Jamie MacRae
- 4/27 Jane Durant
- 4/28 Flynn Mould
- 4/30 Mitzie Gamroth
- 4/30 Tracie Mallum

- 4/1 James and Diane Pielsnik
- 4/5 Matthew and Katie Rodgers
- 4/7 Jim and Clare Sauer
- 4/17 Richard and Elizabeth
- 4/19 Eric and Lisa Kamprath
- 4/22 Michael Jr. and Sandy Prelewicz

Stay connected with your church community all the time, anywhere with the MyUCD App at no cost.



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- Watch Church Services Anytime, Anywhere
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- Call or Message the Church
- Call & Message
- Easier to Give
- Online Giving
- Email Church
- Email

Visit Church Website | Facebook | Instagram | Twitter

Introducing Our Grace Lutheran Church Mobile Directory! Now you can have an updated directory with you 24/7

Updatable by the church
- Update or Add Family photos, names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails
(*No photography with Universal required for updates)...

We have been working with Universal Church Directories to establish our congregation on their APP made for your mobile phone or tablet. From the APP, you can watch downloaded services, contact us directly, access the church calendar, online-giving, You Version Bible, and the church directory. You will be receiving an email from Universal Church Directories with directions to download the APP to your device, along with a unique identifier that is required to login to the APP. Tip: It is also easiest to copy and paste this unique identifier code into the APP to gain access to the church directory. If you have any questions please contact Heidi, Tuesday through Thursday 9am-12pm 414-762-8990.



HELLO April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 6:00am Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (No Communion) 7:00am - 8:20am Easter Breakfast 8:30am Easter Sunday Festival Service 10:00am Easter Sunday Festival Service	1	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	3 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	4 6:30pm Divine Worship	5	6 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
7 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	8 6:00pm - 8:00pm Financial Peace University 6:30pm - 7:30pm Grief Share	9 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	10 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Pastor Shaver Mission Presentation	12	13
14 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Divine Worship	15 Pastor away at Conference 6:00pm - 8:00pm Financial Peace University 6:30pm - 7:30pm Grief Share	16 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 10:00am - 10:00pm Culver's Dining Out Event	17 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	18 Coffee Social after Service 6:30pm Divine Worship	19	20 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 9:00am - 3:00pm Stephen Ministries
21 Coffee Social after Services 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am Church Budget Voters Meeting	22 6:00pm - 8:00pm Financial Peace University 6:30pm - 7:30pm Grief Share	23 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	24 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	25 6:30pm Divine Worship	26	27 6:10pm Lutheran Schools Night - Milwaukee Brewers
28 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Divine Worship	29 6:00pm - 8:00pm Financial Peace University 6:30pm - 7:30pm Grief Share	30 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	1 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	2 6:30pm Divine Worship	3	4 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Radio Worship Service

"*The Lutheran Hour*" can be heard anytime on the internet at lhm.org – scroll down the page and click on, "*listen now.*" You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"*The Lutheran Hour,*" which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



Prayer Hot Line

In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line.

Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

Pastor John M. Taggatz

PH: 414.762.8990

Thursday Worship 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship 8:00 am and
10:30 am

