

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 4th & 7th, 2024

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



Image: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29b)

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 “*Easter Makes a Difference*”

When Thomas finally met Jesus, alive again after Easter, he went from demanding proof to a personal confession of faith, “*My Lord and my God.*” It would have been a different story had the news been false. The rest of the Jerusalem congregation truly exhibited Easter faith when they became a welcoming community, one that shared with newcomers whatever they needed. The news was unbelievable, but so were the responses—in word and deed as faith saw the freeing truth: *we need fear nothing, not even death.* We have heard the news as well. How shall we respond?

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 1, pg. 151

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Opening Hymn 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (vs. 1-5)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

Introit (*Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3, sung responsively*)



Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- |
vation—*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.
Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;*
make known his deeds among the | peoples!
Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;*
tell of all his | wondrous works!
Glory in his | holy name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD | and his strength;*
seek his presence con- | tinually!
Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,*
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered.
He remembers his covenant for- | ever,*
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- | vation—*
if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Kyrie LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

- C **This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

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

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading *Acts 4:32-35*

(Believers use everything they have to help one another.)

³²The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

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

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle Lesson 1 *John 1:1–2:2*

(God is light; He forgives our sins.)

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 156

- C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia Verse for the 2nd Sunday of Easter *"Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia."* (Romans 6:9; John 20:29b)

Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

(Thomas professes Jesus as his Lord and God.)

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

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Stand

Apostles' Creed LSB 159

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 “Big Hug! (1 John 1:1-2:2) 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 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (vs. 6-9)

Sermon “The Right Touch” (1 John 1:1-2:2)

Offertory LSB 159

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160*

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. 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 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 162*

- 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 163*

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei LSB 163

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

- 818 In Thee Is Gladness (vs. 1-2)
-474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen (vs. 1-5)

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 164

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect LSB 166

- A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us
through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would
strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
- C Amen.**

Benediction LSB 166

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.**
- C Amen.**

Closing Hymn 482 This Joyful Eastertide (vs. 1-3)

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.* 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; **Gina** (recovery from surgery) Janine Pieper’s sister; **Maria** (recovery from surgery) friend of Marlene Voss; **Sharon** (healing) Marlene Voss’s sister in law; **Cliff** (hospice) Marlene Voss’s friend, and Tim Gerum; (recovery from a fall) husband of Missy Gerum and friend of Sharon Iseli.

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

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 4/4 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 4/7 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/7 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mark Olen	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Ushers</u>	Madilyn Hundt	Bob Buzzell	Rick Weeks
	Garrison Hundt	Lynn Buzzell	Kathy Weeks
			Tyler Scheinfeld

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!)*

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 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Table of Duties—Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4

Verse of the week: 2 Corinthians 8:9, "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

Psalm of the week: Psalm 33

Hymn of the week: LSB 458 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Lord Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31

Monday— The Resurrection—Mark 16:1-8

Tuesday— The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-27

Wednesday— Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35

Thursday— Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49

Friday— Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31

Saturday— I Will Search for My Sheep—Ezekiel 34:11-16

"In the resurrection we find solace in our mourning, in our uncertainty, and in our troubles. Our longing for escape finds its hope in the resurrection of Christ. It is God's approval upon the redemptive work of His Son. It is the assurance that as He was raised from the dead, so shall we, and all who have 'fallen asleep in Him' shall be raised to life eternal." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources – 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 "Raise the Flag" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world. (Acts 1:1-11) **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 In Scripture, money is an important topic. In fact, God references money and possessions in over 2,000 verses. Because of the power and importance of money, God warns us about the dangers of money. An important safeguard to keep us from loving money is to live with an attitude of gratitude. A grateful person is aware that he deserves nothing of all that he possesses and enjoys. If we are ungrateful, we can believe that we deserve more. We become more aware of what we don't have versus what we have. We can become demanding. May God grant us grateful hearts.

WEALTH IS NOT EVIL, BUT WE ARE NOT TO ALLOW IT TO CONTROL OUR LIVES.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils" (1 Timothy 6:10).



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

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.)

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.

Coffee and Baked Goods Fellowship -After Services at Church

Thursday, April 18th

Sunday, April 21st

Thursday, May 16th

Sunday, May 19th

Ice Cream Social at Grace

Thursday June 6th

Sunday June 9th

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

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

Footsteps of Paul and Glories of Greece Tour Join Pastor Doug Schroeder from Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Greenfield (LCMS) 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.

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!*

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!

Growing in Grace – March 28th -March 31st

<i>General Offering</i>	\$6281.29		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$906.72		
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	Total Attendance All	
		Services	352
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	Total Communed	
		-Thursday	54
		-Easter Sunday	115
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00		
Total	\$7188.01		

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	4/7	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	
Monday	4/8	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	
Tuesday	4/9	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	4/10	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	4/11	6:30pm 7:30 pm	Divine Worship Pastor Shaver Mission Presentation
Friday	4/12	-----	-----
Saturday	4/13	-----	-----
Sunday	4/14	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship - Palm Sunday 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
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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
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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
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

