

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

April 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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



*Image:* "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:26)

## **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 People Follow*”**

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “*will tend His flock like a shepherd*” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

### **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 904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word (vs. 1-4)

*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 23; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b, read responsively)**

I am the good | shepherd.\*

**I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.**

The LORD is my | shepherd;\*

**I | shall not want.**

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.\*

**He leads me beside still | waters.**

He re- | stores my soul.\*

**He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.**  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are  
| with me;\*  
**your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;\*  
**you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.**  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,\*  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.**

**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.**

I am the good | shepherd.\*  
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

#### **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, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

#### **First Reading *Acts 4:1-12***

***(Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.)***

<sup>1</sup>As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the

high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- 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 3:16-24*

**(Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.)**

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

- 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia."* (Romans 6:9; John 10:14)

**Holy Gospel John 10:11-18**

*(Jesus our Good Shepherd prays for and about His disciples.)*

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

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

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

**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 “Good and Bad” (John 10:11-18)** 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 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4, 6)**

**Sermon “Jesus—Our Good Shepherd & The Door” (John 10:11-18)**

**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](http://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**

-809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1-3)

-686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1-4)

*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 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (vs. 1-4)**

**Announcements**

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



**Altar Flowers Given by Diane Pielsnik**

**in Honor of her Birthday on April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**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); **Sabrina** (cancer); **Lori Jablonski** (cancer) and **Jessie Marshall** (healing & strength) friend of Cathy Weeks; **Steve Benzie** (stomach pain, hernia); **Craig** (stem cell transplant); **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); **Bob** (healing & strength) relative of Pauline Parker; **Sue de Shano** (broken ankle) sister of Carol Loveall; **Maria** (recovery from surgery) friend of Marlene Voss; **Sharon** (healing) Marlene Voss's sister in law; **Cliff** (hospice) Marlene Voss's friend; **Tim Gerum** (recovery from a fall) husband of Missy Gerum, and friend of Sharon Iseli; **The**

**Lauters Family; Rod Novak** (recovery from surgery); **Jannalynn** (healing & strength) Great Niece of Carol Loveall.

**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](mailto: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 4/18 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 4/21 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/21 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Cris Evers	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Jennifer Olen	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<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
<u>Acolyte</u>			Brilee Simmons
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

### **Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship!**

**We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.**

Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and assist with communion during service, and straighten up the church after service. Lay readers proclaim God's word to the congregation by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the worship service. If you are able and willing to help in either of these capacities, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church -- your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to approach the elder on duty with any questions you may have about these opportunities.

**Your 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Giving Statements are available in the Narthex.**

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

**Your Easter Flowers can be picked up in the chancel area following worship.** Thank you for beautifying our sanctuary for the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. Your flowers should be labeled so that you are able to find them. Also, there are bags available in the vestry to transport your flowers home.

**Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**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](mailto:pastor.koch@gmail.com). Register online at: [registernow.ittworld.com](http://registernow.ittworld.com). Tour code: Koch25. Early bird savings off the total trip cost with your initial deposit of \$500!!!

**Save the Date!!!** Our Vacation Bible School this Summer will be taking place on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 \$27,736.63 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Catechism:** Table of Duties—To Husbands: 1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19

**Verse of the week:** Romans 8:31b-32, *"If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 147:1-11

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 487 "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (stanzas 1 and 4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**—"Your Sorrow Will Be Turned into Joy"—John 16:12-22

**Monday**— Samuel's Address at Saul's Coronation—1 Samuel 12:1 (2-13) 14-25

**Tuesday**— Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice—1 Samuel 13:1-14

**Wednesday**— Saul's Wars and His Unfaithfulness—1 Samuel 14:52—15:9

**Thursday**— St. Mark, Evangelist: Mark 16:14-20

**Friday**— Saul Is Rejected by the Lord—1 Samuel 15:10-35

**Saturday**—The Song of Isaiah—Isaiah 12:1-6

"Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* "Hurting from abortion or going through a crisis pregnancy? Word of Hope can help. [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org); Call 888-217-8679.



## LUTHERAN HOUR

"More Than He Bargained For" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at:** [lhm.org](http://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 the Parable of the Talents, Jesus commended those who used their talents for Him. He says of them, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" (Matthew 25:23). To the person who failed to use his talents, the Lord said, "*You wicked, lazy servant.*" The talents God gives are of many different kinds: leadership, creativity, mechanical ability, housekeeping, encouragement, caring, etc. Maybe you can't sing solos, but you can sing to the glory of God in worship. Maybe you can't teach, but you can write encouraging letters or notes or send a card or make a telephone call to someone who needs to be lifted up.

### **GOD'S GRACE EMPOWERS US TO RESIST MONEY TEMPTATIONS.**

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions..." (Titus 2:11-12).



**Grief Share Group starting on March 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>-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](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org)

**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](http://ourshepherdlutheran.org).

**Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 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 – April 11<sup>th</sup> -April 14<sup>th</sup>**

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2308.25	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$934.54	
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00	<b>Total Attendance 43/79</b>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$0.00	<b>Total Communed 79</b>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3242.79</b>	

**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	4/21	<b>8:00 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Divine Worship</b> <b>Church Budget Voters Meeting</b> <b>*Coffee Social After Worship</b>
Monday	4/22	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Grief Share</b>
Tuesday	4/23	<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)</b>
Wednesday	4/24	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Ladies Bible Study</b>
Thursday	4/25	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b>
Friday	4/26	-----	-----
Saturday	4/27	<b>6:10 pm</b>	<b>Lutheran Schools Night</b> <b>Milwaukee Brewers</b>
Sunday	4/28	<b>8:00 am</b> <b>9:15 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b> <b>Adult Bible Study</b> <b>Divine Worship</b>

## 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Heidi Brunzelle, Church Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

