

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

6th Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Sunday

May 2nd & 5th, 2024

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

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

God's Grace

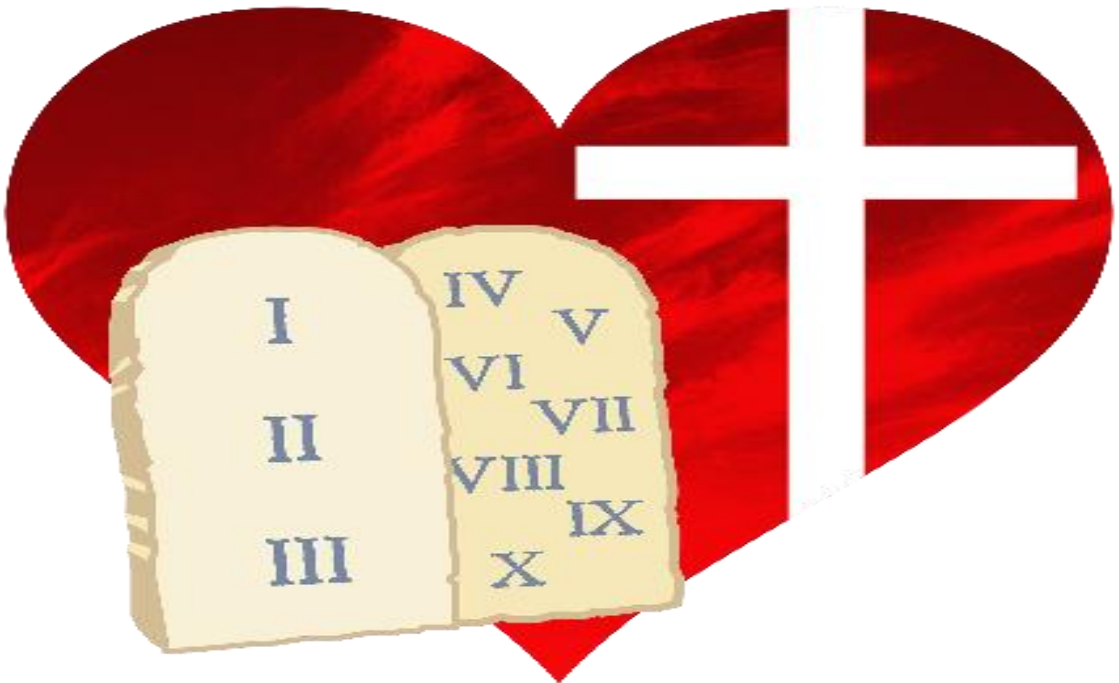


Image: “[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:9-10)

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 “Abiding in Christ’s Love”

A treasured children's song, *“I Love to Tell the Story,”* has a refrain that follows each of the stanzas penned by poet Arabella Katherine Hankey, repeating the simple words: *“I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory, To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and His love.”* The original Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel uses the word *“love”* either as a noun or a verb some nine times in the section of Jesus' words heard in the Gospel for today. Jesus wants His disciples and us to know the abiding power of His love. It is that love that compels us to love one another—and the *“others”* beyond our circles of family, friends, and other close relationships. We are blessed in hearing the *“old, old story of Jesus and His love”* anew today. May we be blessed in telling it out in love as well!

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

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

Order of Service...*Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 66:1-2, 8-9, 20; antiphon: v. 16, sung responsively*)



Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

**Shout for joy to God, | all the earth;*
sing the glory of his name; give to him | glorious praise!**

Bless our God, O | peoples;*
let the sound of his | praise be heard,
**who has kept our soul among the | living*
and has not let our | feet slip.**

Blessèd | be God,*
because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast | love from me!

**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.**

Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
“Amen!” our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

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

P Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through 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 10:34-48*

(People from every nation are accepted by God.)

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

- 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 5:1-8*

(The victory of Christ overcomes the world.)

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 6th 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. In the world you*

will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; John 16:33b)

Holy Gospel John 15:9-17

(Obeying Christ’s commands and remaining in His love)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed LSB 207

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children’s Message “Victory!” (1 John 5:1-8) (Thurs. 6:30pm & Sunday 8am only) 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 919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Overcoming the Last Enemy” (1 John 5:1-8)

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Rite of Confirmation, LSB pg. 272 (Sunday 10:30am Service Only)
Garrison Hundt & Martin Taggatz

Stand

Prayer of the Church (*After each petition the Pastor will say, “Lord in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds saying, “Hear our prayer.”*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 208*

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

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

**C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *LSB 209*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Distribution Hymns

-912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone (vs. 1-3)

-644 The Church's One Foundation (vs. 1-5)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect LSB 212

- A Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, once again You have welcomed us at Your Table of grace. Grant that this Sacrament, that we have now received, may strengthen us so that we may abide in loving service day by day. As we have shared in the blessings of Your Table, grant that we live each day as Your people who see people around us as You see them and love them as You love them. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus LSB 212

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction LSB 212

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

Closing Hymn 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!!!**



*Altar Flowers Given by Bob and Lynn Buzzell
in Honor of their 32nd Wedding Anniversary*

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); **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; and **Mariya** (cancer); and **Brooke Bzdawka** (healing & strength) relative of Sharon Bzdawka; **Jan Barrett** (healing & strength); **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; **Tim Gerum** (recovery from a fall) husband of Missy Gerum, and friend of Sharon Iseli; **The Lauters Family**; **Rod Novak** (recovery from surgery); **Mary Goodle** (healing & recovery) mother of Keith Goodle; Chris Cotter (recovery from surgery); and **Brian** (hospitalized) Margie Spaeth’s nephew.

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

We mourn with the family and friends of **Cliff**, a relative of Marlene Voss, the **Adler family**, as they mourn the death of **Brent**, a friend to the **MacRae family**, and the family of **Craig**, a friend of **Carol Loveall**, who were called home to heavenly rest. We pray: Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with the family and friends of **Craig, Cliff, & Brent**, that casting every care on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Comfort them with the promise that because Jesus lives, we too shall live and have eternal life in His name (John 14:19). In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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

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

Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Students!



God’s blessings to **Garrison Hundt & Martin Taggatz** upon their journey with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior that was started on the day of their baptisms and has continued to their Confirmation TODAY! Congratulations to them as they have confirmed their Christian faith that God gave to them in their baptism!

- ❖ **Garrison Oliver Hundt**
Baptism Date—May 2nd, 2010
Confirmation Verse—Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- ❖ **Martin Alexander Taggatz**
Baptism date—April 6th, 2010
Confirmation Verse—Hebrews 10:23 *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

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 5/2 6:30pm</u> | <u>Sunday 5/5 8:00am</u> | <u>Sunday 5/5 10:30am</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <u>Elders</u> | Greg Nowakowski | Adam Voss | Rick Weeks |
| <u>Readers</u> | Kathryn Szefflinski | Glenn Dotson | Martin Taggatz |
| <u>Communion Set-up</u> | Suzie Miranda | Kathryn Szefflinski Morgan Parker | Kathryn Szefflinski Morgan Parker |
| <u>Linens</u> | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski | Gail Nowakowski |
| <u>Ushers</u> | Doug Klipfel Char Klipfel | | Tommy Szefflinski Andrea Szefflinski |
| <u>Livestream</u> | | | Jennifer Olen |

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 1st Quarter Giving Statements are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

Grace Debt Reduction Campaign—During our April Voters Meeting, President Tony Miranda spoke about the \$28,000 matching fund challenge that we have before our congregation. As you may know, our congregation carried over debt from last year, and we are currently \$65,000 behind. However, our congregation has been blessed with generous givers who recently donated \$28,000 in undesignated memorial money to Grace. Our congregation's challenge is to raise up to \$28,000 to match the memorial money that was given to us. We are asking our members to prayerfully consider giving beyond their firstfruits giving that they normally give to Grace on a weekly basis. We have already received \$1800 from some generous givers to help us begin to achieve this goal, and we would like to reach the goal of matching the \$28,000 by July 1st, 2024, when we begin the next fiscal year. We have a poster in the narthex to help us track our

progress toward meeting this goal. Thank you for your support of the ministries at Grace and please pray that we can meet our Debt Reduction Matching Challenge goal by July of this year!

Join Us for Grace Lutheran School Panther Palooza on May 17th! Grace Lutheran Church Families: Grace PTLs is excited to announce that we will be hosting the annual Panther Palooza at Grace Lutheran School on Friday, May 17th, from 5:30 - 8:00 pm at the school campus. This event promises to be a fantastic opportunity to meet other Grace Lutheran School families and have a great time together. There will be games, a bouncy house, a silent auction, food, and many more fun activities for everyone to enjoy. This is a perfect chance to have fun and get to know our Grace Lutheran School families better! We hope to see you all there for a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.

Welcome to our new members here at Grace!!! Over the last few months our congregation has been blessed to welcome new members here at Grace, they are as follows: *Mary & Tammy Rowley, Joel & Traci Wrobbel-Bieszk and son Jaxson, Trista & Jacob Patten and daughters, Saige & Hazel, Erin Reed and son, Greyson, Jared & Aiden Zeimentz and son, Ashton, and Bekah Lofton and daughter, Erika.* Welcome to our church family, we are so glad that you are here!!!

Military Bible Sticks— Campaign from Thursday, May 23rd through Sunday, July 7th.

Our congregation has faithfully supported this mission for many years. We prayerfully ask you for this support again this year. The change this year is that Military Bible Sticks will be paired with a new mission from Faith Comes by Hearing. This new effort is called Vision 2033. Vision 2033 involves partnering with other missions, such as Lutheran Bible Translators, to translate the Bible into mission languages. These Bible sticks would have native speakers reading the Word and would be given to the missions in countries all over the world. That way people would be able to hear the Good News in their own languages. We are looking forward to being able to be a part of this new mission by Faith Comes by Hearing. Envelopes will be available for donating to Military Bible Sticks in the narthex on the white board. A video will be shared with the congregation soon to share this mission's vision. For more in-depth information please go to: <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/> Here is an interview on the history of Military Bible Sticks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-6mwlc1Bvo>

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. I am looking to have the New Members Class on Sunday, June 2nd from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need child-care. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

Important Date for Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Coming Up--This is a reminder that the last day of Sunday School & Adult Bible Class will be Sunday, May 19th. Thank you for having your children attend Sunday School this year, as they have had the opportunity to learn more about God's love for them in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND We will be switching to our Summer Schedule here at Grace starting Memorial Day weekend. This means that our Sunday morning worship time will be at 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 26th and this will go through Labor Day Weekend. There will not be Sunday School and Adult Bible Class during the summer. Thursday evening worship at 6:30pm will remain the same throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing you in worship!!!

Adult Bible Class Topic— Lectionary Bible Study on the Bible Readings for Each Sunday. On Sunday mornings in the school library from 9:15-10:15am, we will be studying the Bible Readings for each particular Sunday through Sunday May 19th. This will focus on the 1st reading, the Epistle reading, and the Gospel reading for each Sunday, please join us as we grow together in our understanding of God's Word!!! **Sunday School** is the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month in the School from 9:15-10:15am.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!! Graduation is coming up for our 8th Graders at Grace Lutheran School, but also for those in our congregation that are graduating from High School and College. On Sunday, May 19th we will be acknowledging those in our congregation that are graduating from 8th Grade, High School, and College. We are asking that any High School or College age students of our congregation that are graduating would join us for this event. They may also wear their cap and gown to be recognized for their graduation. Please let us know what school they are graduating from, and if it is from college, what is their major? We will publish this information in the church's bulletins on Sunday, May 19th. Please email this info to our Church Secretary, Sarah Anderson at: church@graceoakcreek.org

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. Please call the Church Office for what board positions are currently available for the next term.

Coffee and Baked Goods Fellowship -After Services at Church

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.*

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!!!

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) and the sea creature will be a dolphin.

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 WORD FOR 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Table of Duties— To Parents: Ephesians 6:4; To Children: Ephesians 6:1-3

Verse of the week: Psalm 110:1, “*The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 107:1-9

Hymn of the week: LSB 491 “Up through Endless Ranks of Angels” (stanza 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Whatever You Ask the Father in My Name—John 16:23-33

Monday— David Kills Goliath—1 Samuel 17:32, 37-54

Tuesday— Saul Resents David—1 Samuel 17:55—18:16

Wednesday— David Marries Michal—1 Samuel 18:17-29

Thursday— The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14

Friday— Matthias is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26

Saturday—The Call of the Gospel Goes Out to the Nations—Ezekiel 36:22-28

“The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ’s goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven.” *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* “Hurting from abortion or going through a crisis pregnancy? Word of Hope can help. word-of-hope.org; Call 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "Rejoicing On the Way" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way. (Acts 8:28-39) **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 am & 6:30 am

Stewardship Minute Stewardship is a word we may hear occasionally from the pulpit but we rarely hear outside of our churches. In Scripture, a steward is traditionally one who takes care of another’s household. A steward watches over and manages the affairs of the master so the master may focus on what is most important. Much trust is placed in the steward by the master. He is expected to act in the best interest of his master. In our role as God’s stewards, we submit ourselves to God’s authority and greater good. God calls us to take care of His things faithfully while we are on this brief journey in life.

**GOD IS AMAZINGLY GENEROUS
TO US IN EVERY WAY, AND WE
ARE TO IMITATE HIS GENEROSITY
IN OUR LIVES.**

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”
(1 Corinthians 11:1).



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.

Growing in Grace – April 25th -April 28th

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>General Offering</i> | \$2488.25 | |
| <i>On-Line Giving</i> | \$791.51 | |
| <i>Missions</i> | \$10.00 | |
| <i>Debt Fund</i> | \$300.00 | Total Attendance: 31/74 |
| <i>Mortgage Offering</i> | \$0.00 | Total Communed: 78 |
| <i>Portals of Prayer</i> | \$0.00 | |
| Total | \$3589.76 | |

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 | 5/5 | ***** 8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am | Confirmation Sunday Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship |
| Monday | 5/6 | 5:30 pm 6:30 pm | Confirmation and Graduation Pictures Grief Share |
| Tuesday | 5/7 | 7:00 am 6:30 pm | Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting |
| Wednesday | 5/8 | 9:30 am 6:30 pm | Ladies Bible Study Council Meeting |
| Thursday | 5/9 | 6:30pm | Divine Worship |
| Friday | 5/10 | ----- | ----- |
| Saturday | 5/11 | 8:00 am 10:00 am | Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Grace Ladies Guild |
| Sunday | 5/12 | 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am | Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Divine Worship |

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. John M. Taggatz | 414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com |
| Principal | Mr. Steve Gettelman | 414-762-3655 |
| ECC Director | Mrs. Rachel Miliacca | 414-762-8755 |
| Director of Music | Mrs. Lisa Hengst | |
| Choir Director | Mrs. Kathy Kolb | |
| Congregation President | Mr. Tony Mirenda | 414-807-7445 |
| Fax: | Church/School ECC | 414-762-8869 414-856-9262 |
| Pastor | | pastor@graceoakcreek.org |
| Church Office | Heidi Brunzelle, Church Secretary | church@graceoakcreek.org |
| Principal | | principal@graceoakcreek.org |
| School Office | Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst. | school@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Director | | eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org |
| ECC Office | | ecc@graceoakcreek.org |

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

