

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Celebrate
Teach
Share

The Ascension of our Lord (Observed)

May 9th & 12th, 2024

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



Image: "Jesus, our God, ascends on high; His heav'nly guards around Attend Him rising through the sky, With trumpets' joyful sound." (*Psalm Hymn*)

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 “*This Ending Is a New Beginning*”

The most forgotten Thursday of the Church Year often is Ascension. Coming forty days after Easter, Ascension recalls not merely how our Lord went off with His disciples and disappeared into the clouds but also the promise that remains with them. He went up with a shout—with the glory that He earned and so that He might be present with us always to bestow the glory of His salvation in the means of grace. Our Lord has not abandoned His people but has gone to prepare the way for them that they may be where He is. Furthermore, He has promised His Spirit so that we will know the way. While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

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 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (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 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5, read responsively*)

God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.
The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*
until I make your enemies your | footstool."

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,*
“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”
The Lord is at your | right hand;*
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

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.

God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

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. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

(The Lord ascends from their sight and the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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 *Ephesians 1:15-23*

(The Apostle Paul commends the faith of the congregation in the context of the resurrection and ascension of Christ.)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 Ascension of our Lord *"Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia."* (*Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b*)

Holy Gospel *Luke 24:44-53*

(Luke the evangelist records how Christ opened the Scriptures to the disciples before ascending in glory before their sight.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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 everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "Up! Up! But with Us Always!" (Luke 24:44-53) 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 492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build (vs. 1-3)

Sermon "A New Beginning" (Luke 24:44-53)

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 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. Having revealed Your glory in the face of Your only-begotten Son, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation, You have exalted Him to the highest majesty at Your right hand, that He might graciously fill all things. Grant us faithfully to eat and drink this Holy Supper, trusting our reigning Savior Jesus, who, though unseen in His ascended glory, is here present to save by His body and blood. 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

-821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vs. 1-5)

-525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (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. Heavenly, holy, mighty Lord, as once You ascended in glory having accomplished all things for us and our salvation, grant to us Your Holy Spirit and grace from above that we may recognize Your presence among us through Your Word and Supper and rejoice to receive through these means of grace forgiveness, life, and salvation to possess by faith until we own these eternally on high; whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God, one Lord, now and forever.
- 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.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 534 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



Altar Flowers Given by Tony and Suzie Mirenda

In Honor of Suzie's Birthday on May 15th

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; **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.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow! We are thanking the Lord for the birth of a new baby boy named, Callum, born to Teri and Michael Nameth, a school and church family here at Grace. **We pray:** *Dear Lord we praise you because you are the one from whom all blessings flow. Thank you so much for blessing Teri & Michael with the birth of a new baby boy, Callum, who was born on this past week. Continue to watch over little Callum, especially as he awaits to be baptized into Your most Holy name, so that He may grow up in the knowledge of You and the grace and mercy found in Your Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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

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 5/9 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/12 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/12 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Miranda	Glenn Dotson	Beth Jackson
<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>			Glenn Dotson

Rise and Sonshine Bible Study “*Flowing from the Cross: Six Facets of God’s Forgiveness*” Study. ONE meeting in May, Saturday, May 11th-8am-9:30am at Church. Join us for fellowship while being in God’s Word! All ladies are invited.

Grace Ladies Guild May Meeting Saturday, May 11th-10:00am-11:30am at Church. LWML Prayer Service “*Grace, Mercy, Peace*” Dispersing monies to missions/ministries. Election of President and Treasurer. Both men and women are invited to attend the Prayer Service led by Pastor Tagatz.

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.

Grace Debt Reduction Campaign—During our April Voters Meeting, President Tony Mirenda 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 \$2950 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 \$27,836.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

IN THE WORD FOR ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Catechism: Table of Duties—To Workers of All Kinds: Ephesians 6:5-8

Verse of the week: Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 51:1-12

Hymn of the week: LSB 539 “Christ Is the World’s Redeemer” (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Coming of Persecution—John 15:26—16:4

Monday— The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20

Tuesday— The Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20

Wednesday— The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13

Thursday— Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21

Friday— Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36

Saturday— The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47

“Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let’s partake in the blessing of proclaiming God’s truth and putting Christ’s love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!” *Pastor Michael Salemink – 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 "Unforecastable" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. It's been said that God's call often comes as a surprise. In Acts 9, we meet three men who found themselves called in ways they could neither forecast nor control. (Acts 9:31) **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 Daily we make decisions with our money. Should I buy this? Should I invest in that? Should I pay this off? Because everything we have and everything we are belongs to God, we should be encouraged to make our financial decisions spiritual decisions. By God’s grace, we earn an income that enables us to provide for our needs and the needs of our families. The premise behind the thought of making financial decisions spiritual decisions is that there should be an all- encompassing direction from which we make decisions with our money. The one idea that captures this direction is stewardship. Stewardship acknowledges God as the source of our money, and it gives us purpose for the money that He entrusts to us.

**TO DO A JOB WELL, YOU SHOULD
LEARN MORE THAN YOU NEED TO
KNOW AND DO MORE THAN YOU
HAVE TO DO.**

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23).



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 – May 2nd -May 5th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$3227.25	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1676.99	
<i>Missions</i>	\$200.00	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$1650.00	Total Attendance: 36/114
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$1075.00	Total Communed: 105
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$25.00	
Total	\$7904.24	

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	5/12	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Divine Worship
Monday	5/13	6:30 pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/14	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/15	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	5/16	6:30 pm	Divine Worship Coffee Social after Worship
Friday	5/17	5 pm-8:30pm	Panther Palooza
Saturday	5/18	5 pm-8:30pm	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	5/19	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School Divine Worship Coffee Social after 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	414-762-8869
	ECC	414-856-9262

Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, 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

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