

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

May 30th & June 2nd, 2024

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



Image: "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

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 "Set Free from the Law"

In our Gospel for today, the Old Testament commandment was used to try and show the disciples as law-breakers. Jesus replied, "*The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath*" (Mark 2:27). None of us, because of sinful condition, can keep the letter of the Law. The cross of Christ sets us free from the guilt of not keeping the Law. Those who accuse others of not keeping the Commandments often are legalistic and do not understand the sacrifice Jesus made to set us free from the Law. Do not let another person's interpretation of the Commandments bring guilt into your heart! Christ died to set us free from that. Live in the freedom and forgiveness of the cross.

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 816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies (vs. 1-3)

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 ✠

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. Eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ is our true Sabbath rest. Help us to keep each day holy by receiving His Word of comfort that we may find our rest in Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 5:12-15*

(The commandment to remember the Sabbath is given to the Israelites.)

¹²“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. ¹⁵You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.”

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

Gradual (*Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b, read responsively*)

Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,*
and his greatness is un- | searchable.
On your wondrous works, I will | meditate,*
and I will declare your | greatness.

Epistle Lesson *2 Corinthians 4:5-12*

(Although we are but fragile vessels, God chooses and uses us to deliver the Good News to the world.)

⁵What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

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

Alleluia Verse for the 2nd Sunday after Pentecost *"Alleluia. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Alleluia."* (Mark 2:27)

Holy Gospel Mark 2:23–3:6

(The Pharisees accuse Jesus of working on the Sabbath.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the second chapter.

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

²³One Sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

¹Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. ²And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." ⁴And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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 “A Beautiful Pot” (2 Cor. 4:5-12) 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 577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “The Reckless Sower” (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23)

Sermon Text: Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23—

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

“Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Offertory LSB 159

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

Offering/Attendance

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

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 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

-617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (vs. 1-3)

-904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word (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 164*

- 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 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



*Altar Flowers Given by Greg and Gail Nowakowski
In Honor of their 56th Wedding Anniversary on May 11th*

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); Mariya (cancer); 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; Mary Goodle (healing & recovery) mother of Keith Goodle; Brian (long term medical care) Margie Spaeth's nephew; Paul (recovery from surgery) brother of Jim Pieper; Pauline Parker (healing and strength); Jake (cancer) Grandson of Rose Adams; Gilbert Kahle (medical tests) friend of the Taggatz Family; Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; Lowell Johnson (medical testing); and Betty (healing & strength) Lori Kachelmeier's mother.

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

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 5/30 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 6/2 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mark Olen	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Tatiana Concepcion	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Kathy Szefflinski Morgan Parker	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Donna Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel Char Klipfel	Mike Huber Eric Kamprath
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson

OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PANTHER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX HERE AT CHURCH FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK IT UP TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL...

“Parables for Pentecost” (Sermon Series for this Summer)

Join us this summer as we embark on a journey through some of the most captivating and thought-provoking teachings of Jesus—His parables. These stories, often simple yet profound, reveal deep truths about the nature of God's Kingdom and our role within it. Each week, we will explore a different parable, seeking to understand its meaning in its original context and how it applies to our lives today. As we explore these parables, may we be challenged to examine our hearts and lives in light of God's Kingdom. May we be inspired to live lives of faithfulness, compassion, and generosity, reflecting the character of our Heavenly Father to a world in need.

1. May 30th & June 2nd—The Reckless Sower, Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23
2. June 6th & 9th—Zizahnia, Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43
3. June 13th & 16th—“Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory,” Mark 4:26–34
4. June 20th & 23rd—The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37
5. July 11th & 14th—A Hostile Takeover, Luke 12:13–21
6. July 18th & 21st—What Is God the Father Like? Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

7. July 25th & 28th—The Shrewd Steward, Luke 16:1–14
8. August 1st & 4th—Grace and the Double Standard, Matthew 18:21–35
9. August 8th & 11th—Denarius and the Evil Eye, Matthew 20:1–16
10. August 15th & 18th—Vine Grafters, Luke 20:9–20

Ice Cream Social at Grace

Thursday June 6th and Sunday June 9th

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

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.

Celebration for Mrs. Hagar - Sunday, June 2nd Join us in celebrating Mrs. Hagar's 10 years of teaching at Grace Lutheran School! Worship with us at 9am on Sunday, June 2nd, and then join us for a potluck meal in the school gym at 10:30am, served by our Grace Lutheran PTLs. Let's come together to celebrate Mrs. Hagar's dedication and service to our school. **If you would like to bring a dish to pass, please visit this link to sign up:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_5HT1WGaSLdZK8tYUCROljCVv6rLztWKC0OEgM875JRGOQ/vi/wform. **You can also sign up for the potluck for Mrs Hagar at church in the narthex as well.**

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 \$4,610.00 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!

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>

Grace Lutheran Oak Creek Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Friday, June 14th Join us for a fun-filled day at VBS on Friday, June 14th at Grace Lutheran School. The theme this year is "*Dive In – Come explore under the sea with us.*" Supper will start at 5:30 PM, and VBS activities will begin at 6:00 PM. Our Bible lesson for the evening will be from 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 for this year's VBS will be a dolphin. There will also be a bonfire that you are invited to join us in around 8:30pm at the school. **To register for VBS, please follow this link:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JTPsKjy2_AfT1TdMXbJjklE0FalAZPfeYNNpssEKGQ0/viewform?edit_requested=true&fbzx=-5942196203433033615

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.

June 23rd Voters Meeting following 9am worship at Grace! Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next Voters Meeting at Church!!! It will be on Sunday June 23rd after the 9am worship service. Special topics will include: Pastor's Report, Election of new officers, and updates from church boards. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the ministries here at Grace!!! God bless you!

Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary begins on Memorial Day Weekend!!! The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship will be up soon in our Church Sanctuary. Proceeds from the *Giving Tree* this year will go to support our *Church's Good Samaritan Fund*, which helps out those in need from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center, and the Oak Creek Community. Thank you for your generosity and support for those who are in need!!!

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.

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 \$27,886.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

IN THE WORD FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—The First Commandment

Verse of the week: Romans 1:16, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 145

Hymn of the week: LSB 768 "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Rich Man and Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31

Monday— Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Eunuch—Acts 8:26-40

Tuesday— The Lord Calls Saul on the Road to Damascus—Acts 9:1-9

Wednesday— The Baptism of Saul—Acts 9:10-22

Thursday— The Lord Delivers Saul from Death—Acts 9:23-31

Friday— Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Tabitha—Acts 9:32-43

Saturday— Peter's Vision—Acts 10:1-23

"So, what are we as Christians to do in a culture that rejects God's gift of marriage, sex within its bounds, and children? Repent. Turn from your sin. Receive Jesus' forgiveness. And do not forget to pray. Pray for all marriages and all families, that the Lord who makes two into one flesh would richly bless them with His love, joy, and mercy." *Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Concordia Theological Seminary – 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 "Lit Up" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Law and Gospel light of Jesus is both an exposing searchlight that reveals our shortcomings and a warm glow light that nurtures us. (Acts 11:24) **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 Many situations in life require mediators. Two parties at odds with each other can be brought together by one who is skilled in helping each one see things from the other's point of view. Christ was just such a mediator. Sin had separated us from God. A great chasm lay between us. The just and holy God could not tolerate sin and we helpless humans could not keep from it. From the Apostle Paul we read, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). God has redeemed and restored us into new people of faith who desire to live in and for Him alone (Romans 8:18-23). Thanks be to God for giving His Son to bring about reconciliation between us and our Heavenly Father!

JUST AS CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT TO DEATH ON THE CROSS, WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT TO HIS CALL TO FOLLOW HIM



"Jesus said, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men'" (Mark 1:17).

Growing in Grace – May 23rd & 26th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2860.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$430.15</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$1210.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 27/40</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 59</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$5540.15</i>	

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	6/2	9:00 am 10:30 am 1:30-5:30 pm	Divine Worship Celebration for Mrs. Hagar's 10 years Teaching New Members Class
Monday	6/3	6:30 pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	6/4	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	6/5	6:30 pm	All Boards Meeting
Thursday	6/6	6:30 pm	Divine Worship Ice Cream Social after Worship
Friday	6/7	-----	-----
Saturday	6/8	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	6/9	9:00 am	Divine Worship Ice Cream 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
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, 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

