

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

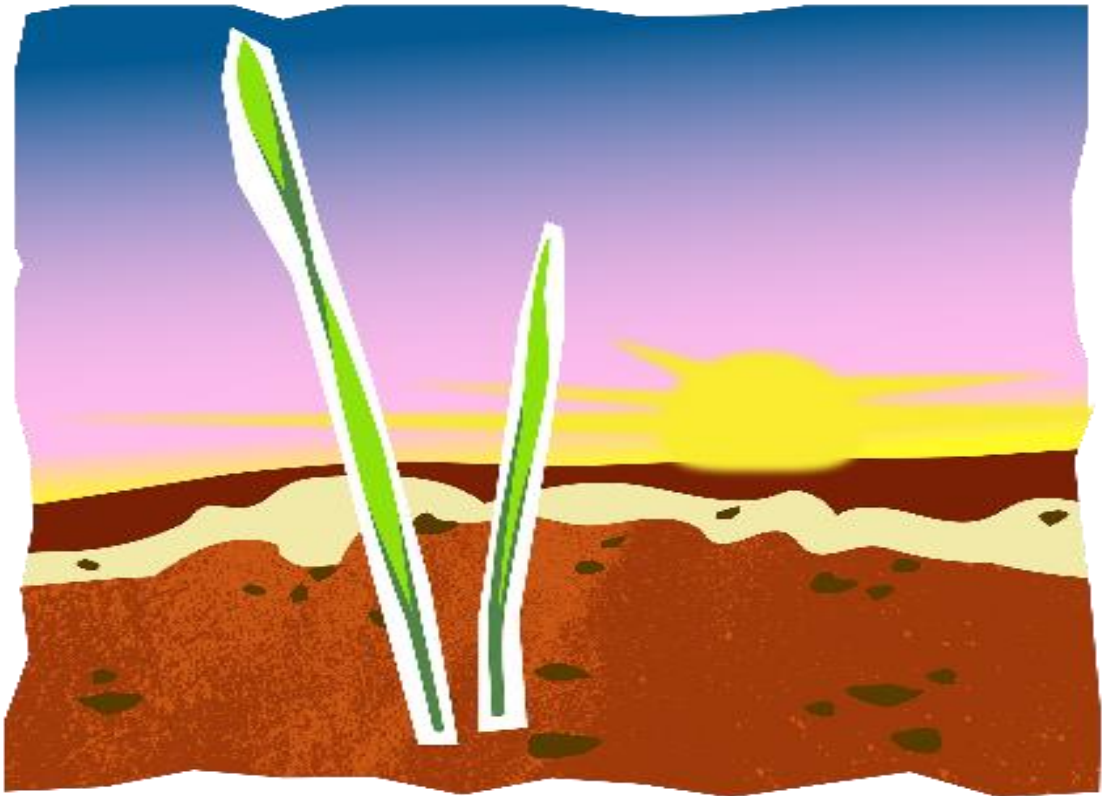
Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

June 13<sup>th</sup> & June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



**Image:** “[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:26-29)

# 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 “*We Are Always of Good Courage*”**

Once again, the Word of God in our ears this day speaks of the glorious and happy goal that God's salvation promises to all who believe in His saving mercy, grace, and love. From of old, the Lord has promised a secure future in His presence both now and especially in the eternity of life in the resurrection. Though we experience the weakness and maybe even dread of growing old, by faith we are like firm trees planted by the strength of God. That faith is the very creation of God the Holy Spirit, which grows and remains strong regardless of our circumstances. So even though we become discouraged at times, our confidence is always renewed by God as we remain steadfast in connection with His mighty Word.

### **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 705 The Man Is Ever Blessed (vs. 1-4, 6)

*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution LSB 151**

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

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

C **Amen.**

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

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

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

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

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

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

C **Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

**Introit (Psalm 92:12-15; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively)**

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.

The righteous flourish like the | palm tree\*  
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

They are planted in the house | of the LORD;\*

**they flourish in the courts | of our God.**  
They still bear fruit in | old age;\*  
**they are ever full of | sap and green,**  
to declare that the LORD is | upright;\*  
**he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in him.**

**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.**

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
**to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.**

### **Kyrie *LSB 152***

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

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

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

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

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

### **This Is the Feast *LSB 155***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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*

#### Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

##### *(A promise of the Messiah)*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

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 5:1-17*

*(Awaiting the new body and a new creation)*

<sup>1</sup>We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse** *LSB 156*

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

**Alleluia Verse for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** *"Alleluia, alleluia! Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!" (2 Peter 3:18a)*

**Holy Gospel Mark 4:26-34**

*(The parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed)*

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

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

- 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 “The Best Place to Live” (2 Cor. 5:1-17)** 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 500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon “Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory” (Mark 4:26-34)**

**Offertory LSB 159**

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

### **Offering/Attendance**

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

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



*Stand*

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



## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### Preface *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

-601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized (vs. 1-2)

-921 On What Has Now Been Sown (vs. 1-3)

*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. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may,

together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 586 Preach You the Word (vs. 1-4, 6)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



*Altar Flowers given by Leah Abelt  
in Honor of Ada Abelt's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

### **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 (hospice); 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; Brian (hospitalized) 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 Tagatz Family; Terri (healing

and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; **Lowell Johnson** (medical testing); and Betty (healing & strength) **Lori Kachelmeier's mother**; and **Oleta Partl** (healing & strength); **Bob Morgan** (healing & strength); **John** (recovery from surgery) Jim Pieper's brother.

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

We mourn with the family of our beloved **South WI District President Pastor John Wille** who was called home to heavenly rest this past week. *"We know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."* (2 Corinthians 5:1) **We pray:** Lord God, heavenly Father, receive our humble thanks for all Your mercies granted to our dear brother, **District President Rev. Dr. John Wille**, during his earthly life, especially for calling him in the true faith until his departure. Comfort those who mourn his death with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a happy reunion in heaven. Help us to remember that we are mortal, that we may ever prepare ourselves to fall asleep in faith and finally receive the glory promised to all who trust in Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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](mailto:Paulinemom@aol.com). **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

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

### **Assisting with the Divine Service**

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

	<b><u>Thursday 6/13 6:30pm</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday 6/16 9:00am</u></b>
<b><u>Elders</u></b>	Keith Goodle	Eric Kamprath
<b><u>Readers</u></b>	Connie Roettgen	Martin Taggatz
<b><u>Communion Set-up</u></b>	Marlene Voss	Lynn Buzzell
<b><u>Linens</u></b>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>		Mike Huber
		Lisa Kamprath
<b><u>Livestream</u></b>		Jennifer Olen

**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...**

**Happy Father's Day!!!** The history of celebrating Father's Day in the United States begins with a church service held in West Virginia in 1908, which recalled and honored the fathers who had perished in a coal mine disaster in the area in the previous year. Two years later, a more general annual observance was begun at a YMCA in Spokane, Washington. But it was not until 1972 that the day was declared to be a national holiday. Among the many qualities of positive fatherhood celebrated on Father's Day is a sense of compassion. Many centuries ago, the psalmist wrote: *"As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him"* (Psalm 103:13). Each week in worship we recall and give thanks for the compassionate love of our God, the eternal Father, who bears His people on eagles' wings and crowns them with steadfast love and mercy. We give thanks that our Heavenly Father has given us our earthly fathers and grandfathers to lead, guide, provide, and protect us in this life and ultimately lead us to our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, and Lord for the forgiveness of our sins and for our eternal salvation. **We pray:** *Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Gather us together with all our fathers to Your eternal household; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Please note, that due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday on the first Thursday of next month,** our midweek worship service will be taking place on Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm, instead of Thursday evening. Thanks for your understanding and we look forward to seeing you in worship that week.

**Special thanks to Jill Nowack, our VBS Coordinator,** those who helped teach our Bible Lessons, lead arts and crafts, games, our opening and closing devotion, helped out with the set up and clean up, and the food for our Vacation Bible School this past Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>. We couldn't have put the VBS on without your prayers and support. Thank you for sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with our children this year!!! The theme this year was *"Dive In - Come explore under the sea with us."* Our Bible lesson for the evening was from 1 Samuel 20, where Jonathan serves God by helping David. The Bible verse for the evening was *"Serve one another in love"* (Galatians 5:13).

**If you missed the Information Meeting for attending the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering this past Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran School** and are still interested in taking part in fundraising and participating in the youth gathering for next year, please contact Pastor Taggatz at: [pastor@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org). **All confirmed youth ages 14-19 are welcome to attend the gathering. The Youth Gathering for next year is July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans, LA. Lisa Kamprath, our Board of Education Chair, will be leading the youth to the Gathering next Summer.**

**Lutheran Young Adults League** is pleased to invite you to the Chinooks Baseball Game on June 26th at 6:35pm! Join us in the Modelo Beerpen at Kapco Park (12800 N. Lake Shore Dr. Mequon, WI 53097). **Sign up** to score a free ticket that includes all-you-can-eat ballpark fare, sides, desserts, and two drinks! To sign up, please contact LYAL via Facebook, Instagram, or email [bergkarl1@gmail.com](mailto:bergkarl1@gmail.com)! Play Ball!!! LYAL (ages 21-35) provides opportunities to meet new people, forge friendships & have fun!

### ***“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. June 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>—“Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory,” Mark 4:26–34
2. June 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>—The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37
3. July 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>—A Hostile Takeover, Luke 12:13–21
4. July 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>—What Is God the Father Like? Luke 15:1–3, 11–32
5. July 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>—The Shrewd Steward, Luke 16:1–14
6. August 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>—Grace and the Double Standard, Matthew 18:21–35
7. August 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>—Denarius and the Evil Eye, Matthew 20:1–16
8. August 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>—Vine Grafters, Luke 20:9–20

### **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 \$5,885.00 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>

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**—The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship is 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 \$28,886.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

**IN THE WORD FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Catechism:** The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part 2 and Part 3

**Verse of the week:** Romans 6:11-12, *“Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey its lusts.”*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 103:1-13

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 608 “Lord, to You I Make Confession”

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1-10

**Monday**— Paul and Barnabas Preach in Iconium—Acts 13:42—14:7

**Tuesday**— Paul and Barnabas Are Mistaken for Greek Gods—Acts 14:8-28

**Wednesday**— The Jerusalem Council—Acts 15:1-21

**Thursday**— The Decree of the Jerusalem Council—Acts 15:22-35

**Friday**— Paul’s Second Missionary Journey Begins—Acts 15:36—16:15

**Saturday**— Paul and Silas Are Imprisoned at Philippi—Acts 16:16-34

“I can finally perceive that God put some of the most difficult neighbors in my life at some of the most difficult times in order to bring me to the end of myself. Jesus didn’t say that what God asks us to do would be easy. What God asks is impossibly difficult if God were not actually alongside us, helping us every step of the way. But the good news is that He is alongside us, helping us every step of the way.” *Donna Harrison, M.D., American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* “Hurting from abortion or going through a crisis pregnancy? Word of Hope can help. [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org); Call 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Water Power"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God's mission is like water. Without changing what it is, the Good News of God's Kingdom takes the shape of its cultural container, crossing boundaries and barriers. (Acts 16:5) **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** *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich”* (2 Corinthians 8:9). Without question, Jesus is the Chief Steward. None can compare to His example of selflessness and giving. He laid aside His rights as Son of God in order to be the Son of Man. He was willing to endure ignominious death on the cross so that we could be rescued from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He taught us to think and live a new way – as servants who are available to serve, not to be served.

**FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF  
OUR GREAT STEWARD, WE  
SERVE OTHERS, PUTTING THEIR  
NEEDS BEFORE OUR OWN.**

“...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).



## Growing in Grace – June 6<sup>th</sup> & June 9<sup>th</sup>

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2061.25</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1871.62</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$1200.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 36/47</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 69</i>
<i>Military Bible Sticks</i>	<i>\$95.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$5327.87</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	6/16	9:00 am	Divine Worship
Monday	6/17	-----	-----
Tuesday	6/18	7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	6/19	-----	-----
Thursday	6/20	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	6/21	-----	-----
Saturday	6/22	-----	-----
Sunday	6/23	9:00 am	Divine Worship Voter’s Meeting 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

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

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

