

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 11th & 14th, 2024

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



Image: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

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 "A Lasting Inheritance"

We are often reminded things in this life don't last. This includes everything from material things and earthly goods to health and well-being as age increases, to relationships we treasure, and ultimately mortality, which leads to death. Yet just as things in this life are temporary, with joy we are pointed frequently to what is everlasting. Adopted as God's own children, we are given an eternal inheritance through the work of Jesus Christ. Amid the temporary things of a broken and sinful world, we keep our focus on Christ and the eternal blessings assured "*to the praise of His glorious grace*" (Ephesians 1:6).

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 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (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 (*Psalms 143:1-2, 8a; antiphon: v. 11, read responsively*)

For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*

In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.
Let me hear in the morning of your | steadfast love,*
for in | you I trust.

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.

For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Kyrie LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

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

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,

In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, You granted Your prophets strength to resist the temptations of the devil and courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully even into suffering and death; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT GRACE (Sunday) (Your 2024-2025 Officer & Board Members of Grace—At our June Voter's Meeting our congregation elected these members to serve on our Church Council & Board positions. Today they are installed in their positions. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve!!! In the announcements you will find the current officers and the new officers that are being installed.)

Old Testament Reading Amos 7:7-15

(Amos's vision and prophecy to the people)

⁷This is what [the Lord God] showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land."

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

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

Gradual (*Romans 11:33, 36, read responsively*)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*
To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Lesson *Ephesians 1:3-14*

(Spiritual blessings in Christ)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- 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 8th Sunday after Pentecost *"Alleluia. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia."* (Matthew 5:10)

Holy Gospel Mark 6:14-29

(The death of John the Baptist)

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

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." ¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." ²³And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

- 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 “To Tell the Truth” (Mark 6:14-29) 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 732 All Depends on Our Possessing (vs. 1-5)

Sermon “A Hostile Takeover” (Luke 12:13-21)

Sermon Text: Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

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. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in 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

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

-346 When All the World Was Cursed (vs. 1-4)

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. 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.**

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 212*

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



Altar Flowers Given by Barb and Mike Huber In Honor of their 30th Wedding Anniversary

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Tom Janes (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder); 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); 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; 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 (thanksgiving for good results from medical testing); and Betty (healing & strength) Lori Kachelmeier's mother; and Oleta Partl (healing & strength); and John (recovery from surgery) Jim Pieper's brother; John Loveall (bone cancer) brother in law of Carol Loveall.

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 **Cookie**, a friend of the Mirenda family, who fell asleep in Jesus this past Monday. *"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 friend, **Cookie, a friend of the Mirenda family**, during her earthly life, especially for calling her in the true faith until her departure. Comfort those who mourn **Cookie's** 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. **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.

Wednesday 7/11 6:30pm Sunday 7/14 9:00am

<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Brandon Dachel
<u>Readers</u>	Tatiana Concepcion	Cris Evers
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Marlene Voss	Lynn Buzzell
	Janine Pieper	Janine Pieper
<u>Linens</u>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Ron Savarino
	Lance Kopperud	Lowell Johnson
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen

Board Member Installation will be taking place on Sunday, July 14 during the worship service. Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord and His people in the Church with the gifts that God has given to you and God bless you in your years of service at Grace!!!

Your 2024-2025 Grace Officers & Board Members (*indicates a new board member, serving a new term)

President—Tony Mirenda

Vice President—Tom Hengst

Secretary—Debbie Oelke*

Treasurer—Lynn Buzzell

Financial Secretary—Lori Kachelmeier

Board of Elders—Greg Nowakowski, Eric Kamprath, Adam Voss, Dick Jackson, Mike Huber, Rick Weeks, Keith Goodle, and Craig Lau*

Board of Church Properties—Ben Heinen, Justin Mendez, Mark Lutzke, Mike Zanardi, Tim Cooksy, Dick Schaefer, John Gottwald, Andy Jaskie*, and Craig Roush*

Board of Evangelism—Mitzi Gamroth, Kathy Szefflinski, and Gail Nowakowski

Board of Finance—Nick Norton, Brent Endres*, and Lori Jablonski

Board of Stewardship—Jane Durant, Dave Stecker, Patrick Manoil, Janine Pieper, and David Pankow*

Board of Education—Kathy Kolb, Lisa Kamprath, Melissa Pepler, Chris Cotter, Bob Buzzell, and Jennifer Lau*

Welcome to our new members at Grace! We are excited to welcome two new families at Grace, they are **Alayna and Jonathan Riffer**, and their children **Addelynn and Cooper**, and **Samantha Gonsowski** and her children, **Jaelynn, Jackson, and Madison**. Welcome to Grace, we are so glad that you have joined our church!!!

If you missed the Information Meeting for attending the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering on Tuesday June 11th 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. 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. If you have questions about going to the National Youth Gathering in 2025 you can reach Lisa Kamprath at: lisa@kamprath.net

“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. July 11th & 14th—A Hostile Takeover, Luke 12:13–21
2. July 18th & 21st—What Is God the Father Like? Luke 15:1–3, 11–32
3. July 25th & 28th—The Shrewd Steward, Luke 16:1–14
4. August 1st & 4th—Grace and the Double Standard, Matthew 18:21–35
5. August 8th & 11th—Denarius and the Evil Eye, Matthew 20:1–16
6. August 15th & 18th—Vine Grifters, 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 Mirinda 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 \$10,995.00 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!

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!!!

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 \$26,886.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

IN THE WORD FOR THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: The Lord's Prayer—the Fourth Petition

Verse of the week: Romans 15:13, "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 47

Hymn of the week: LSB 819 "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9

Monday— Paul Begins His Testimony to King Agrippa—Acts 26:12-32

Tuesday— Paul's Voyage to Rome Begins—Acts 27:1-12

Wednesday— Paul's Ship Is Caught in Violent Seas—Acts 27:13-38

Thursday— Paul Is Shipwrecked on the Island of Malta—Acts 27:39—28:10

Friday— Paul's Ministry at Rome—Acts 28:11-31

Saturday—The Beginning of the Gospel According to St. Mark—Mark 1:1-13

“We are each created in God’s image regardless of our abilities. He has called us to be His witnesses in the world. We are blessed for life—that we might be a BLESSING—glorifying Him in all we do. Because He has redeemed ME, my response to His everlasting love is to seek to do His will in all things and seek to serve. All His children, regardless of age (pre-born to wise with age), could seek to share God’s love with each and every soul God has created.” *Lori Solyom, Director of Development, Voice of Care – 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 "Words of Grace Build Us Up" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

The gracious words of God change our lives for the better, tell us of our inheritance, and remind us that we are part of a much larger family. (Acts 20:32) **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 “*What do you have that you did not receive?*” asks the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:7). The world admires the “self-made man,” one who has started with little or nothing and has turned it into millions. While we should respect those who work hard and use their gifts wisely, we need to remember that it is God Who is the giver of those gifts and that He gives those gifts for a reason: God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. We are to be God’s channels through whom He works. “*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God*” (2 Corinthians 9:11).

**GOD BLESSES US FOR A PURPOSE,
SO WE ARE NOT TO HOLD ONTO
OUR BLESSINGS SELFISHLY.**

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10)



Growing in Grace – July 3rd & July 7th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2483.25</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$2085.59</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 23/41</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 55</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$4668.84</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	7/14	9:00 am	Divine Worship
Monday	7/15	-----	-----
Tuesday	7/16	7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	7/17	-----	-----
Thursday	7/18	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	7/19	-----	-----
Saturday	7/20	-----	-----
Sunday	7/21	9:00 am	Divine Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, 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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