

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15th & 18th, 2024

"By His Grace you are saved through faith."



Ephesians 2:8



Image: “Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8b-10)

Welcome to Grace!

We’re Glad You’ve Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don’t want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We’re glad you’re with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you’ll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather “You Have the Words of Eternal Life”

Our Lord has argued with His enemies and insists that His flesh is real food and His blood real drink. Even the truth can sometimes be unsettling. The disciples are not sure what to make of it all and watched as many of His followers abandoned Jesus. Peter speaks what is on all our hearts. The way of faith in Christ is not easy, but what choice do we have? Where else is the One who keeps His promises and delivers what He says? Christ alone is the Word of eternal life.

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 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 111:1-5, 9; antiphon: v. 10, read responsively)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.*

His praise endures for- | ever!

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,*
in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.
Great are the works | of the LORD,*
studied by all who de- | light in them.
Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,*
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.
He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;*,
the LORD is gracious and | merciful.
He provides food for those who | fear him;*,
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.*
Holy and awesome | is his name!

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.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good
under- | standing.*
His praise endures for- | ever!

Kyrie LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

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

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,

Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

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

P Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Proverbs 9:1-10*

(“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”)

¹Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” ⁷Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

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

Gradual (*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt., read responsively*)

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!

Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle Lesson *Ephesians 5:6-21*

(Walk not as the unwise but as the wise in faith.)

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- 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 13th Sunday after Pentecost—*“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.” (Verse John 6:68)*

Holy Gospel *John 6:51-69*

(“Jesus has the words of eternal life.”)

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

⁵¹[Jesus said:] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message “You Are Invited” Proverbs 9:1-10) 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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “Vine Grifters” (Luke 20:9-20)

Sermon Text: Luke 20:9-20—[Jesus] began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

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

-728 How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1-5)

-571 God Loved the World So That He Gave (vs. 1-5)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

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

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

Post-Communion Collect LSB 212

A Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the Holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 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 are given by Dawn Jantz.

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; Cindy 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); 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; 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; Paul (recovery from surgery) brother of Jim Pieper; Jake (cancer) Grandson of Rose Adams; Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; John (recovery from surgery) Jim Pieper's brother; John Loveall (bone cancer) brother in law of Carol Loveall; Grandma Martha Rowley (move to assisted living & good health) relative of Mary & Tammy Rowley; Greg Nowakowski (shoulder surgery); Sue Dummer (surgery) wife of Pastor Dummer; Lynn Van Kanegan (recovery from heart surgery); Karen (healing & strength) sister of Beth Jackson; Pauline Parker (healing & strength); and Cris Evers (healing & strength); Georgeanne (Parkinsons disease) friend of Sharon Iseli; Laura (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; Carol Loveall (medical tests); Stan Gumm (medical tests); Diane Krueger (knee surgery); Don Adams (cancer) relative of Pauline Parker.

We mourn with the families of Oleta Partl and Brian, a nephew of Wally & Margie Spaeth who were called home to heavenly rest. *"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 Oleta & Brian, during their earthly lives, especially for calling them in the true faith until their departure. Comfort those who mourn Oleta & Brian's deaths 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.

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

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.

Thursday 8/15 6:30pm

Sunday 8/18 9:00am

Elders

Brandon Dachel

Adam Voss

Readers

Chris Cotter

Beth Jackson

Communion Set-up

Staci Scherer

Jeanne Meyer

Linens

Donna Dotson

Donna Dotson

Ushers

Doug Klipfel

Bob Buzzell

Charlotte Klipfel

Lynn Buzzell

Livestream

Glenn Dotson

UPDATE ON POSTAGE AT GRACE!!! We wanted to let you know that since the US Postal Service is once again raising prices on postage, we are considering narrowing down our list of individuals who receive our mailings from the Church office. If you currently have an email address filed with us, we will begin sending you communications electronically, such as the church newsletter, etc. However, if you would like to continue to receive the newsletter and other church communication by mail, please be sure to let our Church office know by contacting us at: **Phone:** 414-762-8990 or **Email:** church@graceoakcreek.org. Thank you for letting us know your preferences for receiving communications from us at Grace! Please respond by Monday August 26th to let us know your preferences.

Your second quarter giving statements are available in the Church narthex to pick up. We continue to provide your quarterly giving statements in order to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the ministries at Grace. We couldn't do this kingdom work without your ongoing prayers and support! God bless you!!!

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!!! We have received the payment from Brotherhood Mutual, Grace's Insurance Company. Brookens Construction, the company we approved at our June Voters Meeting, should be able to begin construction on our hail damaged church and school roofs soon. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to complete this project on our church and school roofs. Praise God we were able to receive money from our insurance company to cover some of the costs of replacing the church and school roofs!!!

Temporary Wraparound Care Worked Needed at the Day School: We are in need of a temporary wraparound care worker at Grace from 6:30-8:05am near the end of August through the month of October. If you are interested in helping out with this position, please contact our ECC Director Rachel Miliacca at: eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org or at 414-762-8755.

Lutheran Young Adults League—LYAL (ages 21-35) provides opportunities to meet new people, forge friendships & have fun. Kickball Game, Plus Spikeball and Volleyball. August 17th at 4pm. Elm Grove Lutheran Church 945 Terrace Dr. Elm Grove, WI 53122. Both players and spectators welcome! To sign up, please contact LYAL via Facebook, Instagram, or email lutheranyoungadultsleague@gmail.com.

Attention 6th - 8th Grade Parents

There will be a special Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the school with Pastor Taggatz.

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m. for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes will be taking place in the school.

Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church beginning, September 4th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, “*God’s Provision in a Wilderness World*” by Lindsay Hausch. About the book: For the Israelites wandering through the wilderness and us, God’s manna is a gift wrapped in struggle. This example of God providing manna invites us to look at our present life—with its bittersweet beauty—and see how our Creator is blessing us with His gifts in our everyday struggles. The forty studies in this book will lead you through the Book of Exodus as the Israelites wander through the wilderness, pointing you to what God wants you to know and apply to your own life. This women’s Bible study is broken up into eight weeks, with five sessions per week, for a total of forty studies. Our culture is a wilderness where our effort to satisfy our needs with things of this world leaves our hearts empty and aching for more. Every day, no matter where you wander, God invites you to take time in His Word and recenter your heart on Him. God’s provision for you is personal. He meets you where you are. And He gives you what you need. Join us!!!

Sunday, September 8th—Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!! Please join us for our church picnic on Sunday, September 8th. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our Church Sanctuary. Then, the picnic will start at 11:30am at Grace Lutheran School. We hope you can join us for some good fun, food, and Christian fellowship!!!

Please register by Sunday, September 1st. You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, or calling 414-762-8990. Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. Feel free to bring lawn games such as: *ladder toss* and *bean bag toss* for you and your fellow parishioners to enjoy. As you sign up, please indicate the number

of people attending and if you can help with set up, serving, and/or clean up. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Sunday School Begins on Sunday September 15th

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 15th. It is for children preschool through 8th Grade. This year we also will be providing Sunday School for our High School Students. We are also providing Adult Bible Class at Grace. Adult Bible Class will take place in the School Library and Sunday School will be taking place at Grace Lutheran School. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class is between 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. Adult Bible Class will be every Sunday of the month and Sunday School and High School Bible Study will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Rowley at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org.

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 Tagatz 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**

Rise and Sonshine Bible Study

Please note: The schedule has changed from August 10th to August 17th 8:00am at Grace 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. 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. Call the church office at 414-762-8990 or email Pastor Taggatz at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org if you are interested in helping out with lay reading or ushering at Grace!!!

Save the Date for this year's ML Spartan Golf Open, held Monday, September 30th at Tuckaway Country Club in Franklin. Last year was a sellout, so don't wait to sign up! Please also consider being a sponsor of the event, and/or donating an item to raffle off. We would greatly appreciate it. So again, Save the Date and let's go to the SGO!!

For more information and to register, follow this link...

<https://lhsagm.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/SpartanGolfOuting2024/tabid/1488799/Default.aspx>

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 \$11,195.00 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 in the next few months.** 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!

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 \$27,036.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

IN THE WORD FOR THE 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: The Apostles' Creed—the Third Article

Verse of the week: Jeremiah 23:5-6, “*Behold, the days are coming,*” says the LORD, “*That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness*

in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Psalm of the week: Psalm 146

Hymn of the week: LSB 545 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Jesus Heals the Deaf Mute—Mark 7:31-37

Monday— The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Mark 9:2-13

Tuesday— A Boy Is Healed—Mark 9:14-32

Wednesday— Who Is the Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?—Mark 9:33-50

Thursday— Jesus Teaches on Marriage and Divorce—Mark 10:1-12

Friday— Jesus Blesses the Children—Mark 10:13-16

Saturday—The Rich Young Ruler—Mark 10:17-31

"Through our vocations, both permanent and temporary, Christians are gifted opportunities to share the Gospel-motivated message that every life is valuable, and in so doing, carry the light of Christ into dark places filled with sin and death. It's true, this work won't always be easy; there may be times when we wonder about the path God has placed us on. But we can be confident that we aren't traveling alone. Christ goes with us, and His grace is sufficient. Always." *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – 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 "The Child Glad to Be Born" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer.

Archives August: The Child Who wanted to be born can make you glad to be alive! That joy for living comes when you hear His story. (Luke 2) 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 A theme the Apostle Paul returns to often throughout his letters in the New Testament is that of putting off the Old Adam and putting on the New Self. Get rid of those things that are a hindrance to your life in Christ. "*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. And be thankful*" (Colossians 3:2, 15). Focusing on temporal problems, we tend to get bogged down. Setting our minds on things above, however, we cannot but be thankful for all God is and all He has done and continues to do for us in Christ.

Proportionate or percentage giving gives all Christians an equal privilege and opportunity to share in extending God's kingdom.

"For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12).



Growing in Grace – August 15th & 18th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2,200.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 79</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 61</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,230.00</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	8/18	9:00 am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/19	-----	-----

Tuesday	8/20	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	8/21	-----	-----
Thursday	8/22	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/23	-----	-----
Saturday	8/24	-----	-----
Sunday	8/25	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

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