

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 22nd & 25th, 2024

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



Image: "What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul! (LSB 543:1)

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 "The Right Place for Tradition"

Tradition is a profound gift, but it can also be a problem. When the works of our hands are at odds with the faith of our hearts or when the faith of our hearts no longer shapes our lives, we are in trouble. Jesus calls out the empty tradition that begs for faith and the timid faith that fears bold confession. In so doing, our Lord rightly places the gift and blessing of tradition, not the dead faith of the living but the living faith of the dead, to encourage us in our own believing.

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 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (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 26:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: v. 8, read responsively)

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*

and the place where your | glory dwells.

Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my in- | tegrity,*

and I have trusted in the LORD without | wavering.

Prove me, O LORD, and | try me;*

test my heart | and my mind.
I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, | O LORD,*
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your | wondrous deeds.

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.

O LORD, I love the habitation | of your house*
and the place where your | glory dwells.

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 and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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 *Isaiah 29:11-19*

(God said, “I will again do wonderful things with this people.”)

¹¹The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.”

¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”

¹³And the Lord said: “Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, ¹⁴therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.” ¹⁵Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?” ¹⁶You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? ¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? ¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

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 5:22-33*

(Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.)

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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 14th Sunday after Pentecost—“Alleluia. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.” (Jeremiah 15:16a)

Holy Gospel *Mark 7:1-13*

(Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah that, “This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me.”)

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

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

¹When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is,

unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

⁹And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)—¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "Tradition!" (Mark 7:1-13) 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 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (vs. 1-5)

Sermon "Traditions in the Church" (Mark 7:1-13)

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

-585 Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide (vs. 1-6)

-543 What Wondrous Love Is This (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. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for

His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 862 Oh, Blest the House (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!!!**



Altar flowers today are given by Larry & Sandy Herte in celebration of their 56th 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; 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); **Georgianne** (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; **Dennis Iseli** (recovery from surgery).

We mourn with the family of **Oleta Partl**, who was 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 Partl**, during her earthly life, especially for calling her in the true faith until her departure. Comfort those who mourn **Oleta'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.

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.

	<u>Thursday 8/22 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/25 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Jennifer Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Staci Scherer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel	Bob Buzzell
	Charlotte Klipfel	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen

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.

Joanne Morgan has recently moved. Here is her new address to stay in touch with her. Thank you for your prayers for her and her family as they mourn Bob's death.

Mitchell Manor

c/o Joanne Morgan

8740 S Oak Park Dr

Room 4

Oak Creek, WI 53154 New phone number is: 414-766-2404

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

During the month of September, we will be worshipping at:

- Sunday, September 1st at 9:00am
- Sunday September 8th at 10:00am in the church, as we observe Christian Education Sunday, the Church Picnic will follow at 11:30am in our Lutheran School building.
- Sunday, September 15th (and moving forward) at 8:00am and 10:30am, with Sunday School and Adult Bible Class being in the school from 9:15-10:15am. (Adult Bible Class is every week, Sunday School is 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)
- Thursday evening worship will remain the same at 6:30pm.

There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, September 22nd after the 10:30am Worship Service. Please plan on attending as your participation as a member of our congregation is very important for the ministries here at Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. Topics of the meeting will include: Pastor's update, goals for the next year from our Church Boards, Treasurer's Report, and update on Church Membership here at Grace.



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 Worker 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 Tagatz.

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.

Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library starting Sunday September 15th—Romans: Alive in Christ—Paul's letter to the Romans is the first epistle in the New Testament because it is the longest, but it could also occupy that position because of the importance of its contents as well. It has always played an important role in the history of the church, because it summarizes so well the essential emphases of the apostle's evangelical theology. Martin Luther had an especially exalted view of Romans: *"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes."* ("Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans," from 1546, in *Luther's Works, American Edition*, vol. 35 [Philadelphia: Muhlenberg, 1960], p. 365.) Romans summarizes a quarter century of Paul's missionary preaching and teaching. It is the purpose of Romans to unfold some of its implications. Throughout the letter Paul emphasizes that God's mercy comes to undeserving people who stand under the accusation and condemnation of the Law. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God freely gives righteousness to men and women through faith alone, and not on the basis of their own accomplishments or their own fastidious efforts to keep the Law. Let's take a look at Romans and learn and grow!

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.

Registration Meeting Wednesday September 18th for attending the 2025 LCMS National Youth Gathering!!!

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. **Please note**, for those students eligible to go to next year's LCMS National Youth Gathering, there will be a special youth gathering meeting for registering your children on Wednesday September 18th at 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran School.

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 \$11,395.00 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!!! The Giving Tree will be up till Labor Day weekend...

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 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—First and Second Commandments

Verse of the week: Psalm 73:26, “*My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 74

Hymn of the week: LSB 954 “We All Believe in One True God” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37

Monday— Saul Persecutes David—1 Samuel 19:1-18 (19-24)

Tuesday— Jonathan Befriends David—1 Samuel 20:1-23

Wednesday— Jonathan Keeps His Promise to David—1 Samuel 20:24-42

Thursday— Martyrdom of St John the Baptist—Mark 6:14-29

Friday— David Flees from Saul—1 Samuel 21:1-22:2

Saturday— Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Proverbs 4:10-23

“The rainbow is a reminder that God’s grace will always preserve you and this beautiful world in which you live until He raises you and takes you to heavenly glory. This is God’s amazing grace, and His grace generates your life of genuine gratitude.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "When the Monsters Come" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. Archives August: We can never be too vigilant against the devil's attacks but in Christ we can always be confident that the victory is ours. (Job 40:15-41:34) 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.

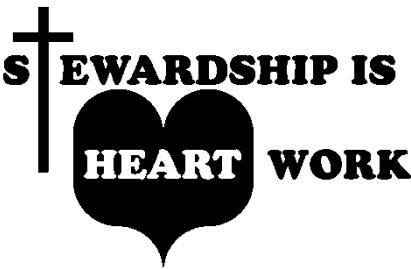
WTMJ 103.3 FM Milwaukee, WISun 6:30 am

WTMJ 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sun 5:30 and & 6:30 am

Stewardship Minute In our stewardship journey, we are transformed into new people who are changed by the Holy Spirit from self-centered to Christ-centered people. In Christ, we are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). He changes us from being selfish people to those who are generous and other-oriented. We move forward in our generosity, learning to give more and more. Our journey will be marked by ups and downs, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we continue moving forward by God’s grace. Our journey and transformation are only complete in our eternal home with Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP IS THE WAY WE
REFLECT OUR CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP
WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES—OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND MONEY.

“Moreover, it is required of stewards
that they be found faithful”
(1 Corinthians 4:2).



Growing in Grace – August 15th & 18th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1,801.25</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 72</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$1,050.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 64</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3,051.25</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	8/25	9:00 am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/26	-----	-----

Tuesday	8/27	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	8/28		
Thursday	8/29	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/30	-----	-----
Saturday	8/31	-----	-----
Sunday	9/1	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.
ECC Director
ECC Office ecc@graceoakcreek.org

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