

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*



15th Sunday after Pentecost

August 29th & September 1st, 2024

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

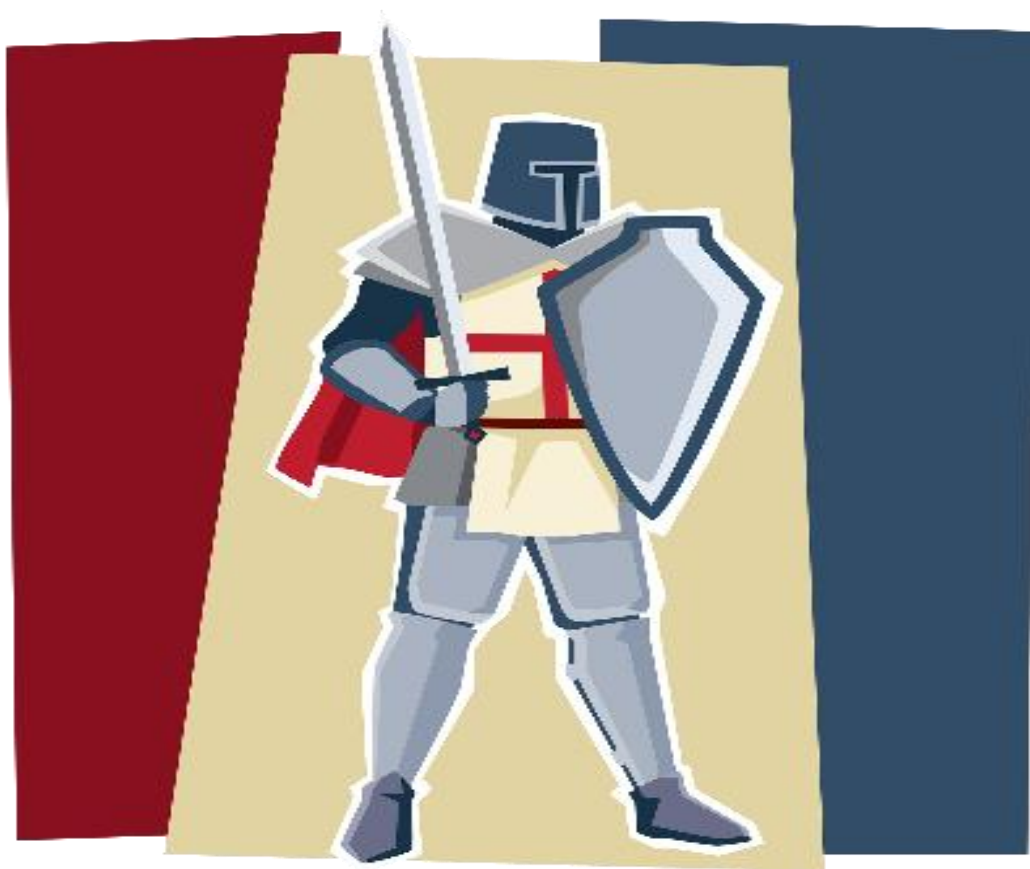


Image: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." (*Ephesians 6:11*)

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 Defiled Heart Made Clean"

There is a lot of good news in the Readings of the day, but you won't find it in today's Holy Gospel, which points out that our fallen hearts produce much of the evil around us. Likewise, the Old Testament Reading warns against not telling the next generation about God's goodness. But the Epistle, which uses the imagery of a suit of armor, tells us to rely on God and His gracious goodness. And the Introit has the Gospel in full measure! While asking for God's forgiveness; we also rejoice that He re-creates us, cleaning us inside out. What a great reason to gather to sing His praises today!

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service...Divine Service Setting 1, pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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

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

C **Amen.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 51:7, 10-12; antiphon: v. 2, sung responsively)



Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

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.

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

Kyrie *LSB 152*

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

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

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

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

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

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; 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 *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

(Do not forget all that God has done; teach your children.)

¹“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the just decrees that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. . .

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? ⁸And what great nation is there,

that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children.”

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 6:10-20*

(Be certain about teachings and put on the armor of God.)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

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

Alleluia Verse for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost—*“Alleluia. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Alleluia.” (Matthew 5:8)*

Holy Gospel Mark 7:14-23

(People are not defiled by what they eat but by what comes out of their hearts and mouths.)

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

¹⁴[Jesus] called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed LSB 159

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message “Let His Love Show” (Mark 7:14-23) 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 664 Fight the Good Fight (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “The Sin Within” (Mark 7:14-23)

Offertory LSB 159

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

Offering/Attendance

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

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 160

- P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,**

Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 162*

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini *LSB 163*

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord’s Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to “*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*” the Good News of God’s Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord’s Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Distribution Hymns

-625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread (vs. 1-4)

-693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace (vs. 1-3)

Stand

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
 He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
 with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 166*

- 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.**

Benediction *LSB 166*

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

Closing Hymn 920 Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



Altar flowers today are given by

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); 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; Jake (cancer) Grandson of Rose Adams; Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; John Loveall (bone cancer) brother in law of Carol Loveall; Martha Rowley (move to assisted living & good health) relative of Mary & Tammy Rowley; Greg Nowakowski (shoulder surgery); Karen (healing & strength) sister of Beth Jackson; Pauline Parker (healing & strength); 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; Dennis Iseli (healing & strength).

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:

Requests on prayer line:

10am-3 pm

Carol Thurber

414-762-8990

414-762-9615

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 8/29 6:30pm**Sunday 9/1 9:00am****Elders****Readers****Communion Set-up****Linens****Ushers****Livestream**

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 Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home Volunteers Needed--Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willow Crest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. You may end up leading a worship service at Willow Crest once a month, or every 5 to 6 weeks, depending on how many people are willing to volunteer in leading worship services at Willow Crest. We would also provide you with resources to help you lead worship services at Willow Crest. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at jlkachel2@gmail.com or 414-828-0290. You would also be able to shadow a current Willow Crest Worship Leader if you are wanting to learn more information about this ministry.

Grief Share Group starting on October 7th at Grace Lutheran School—No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? On Monday October 7th we are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with

the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group meets on Monday evenings at Grace Lutheran School starting October 7th through January 13th, 2024 from 6:00-8:00pm in the School Library, with a break on Monday December 23rd. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Oak Creek, WI. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."* For more information, call our Church office at 414-762-8990 or email us at: church@graceoakcreek.org. You can also contact Jeanne Meyer for more information at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at jlkachel2@gmail.com or 414-828-0290.

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!!!

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.

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 \$11,445.00 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 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Third and Fourth Commandments

Verse of the week: Psalm 111:10, “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 84

Hymn of the week: LSB 585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Jesus Cleanses the Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11-19

Monday— Labor Day: Saul Murders the Priests of Nob—1 Samuel 22:3-23

Tuesday— David Saves the City of Keilah—1 Samuel 23:1-13

Wednesday— David Hides in the Wilderness—1 Samuel 23:14-29

Thursday— David Spares Saul’s Life—1 Samuel 24:1– 25:1

Friday— David and Abigail—1 Samuel 25:2-44

Saturday—1 Kings 17:8-16

“May we all faithfully live out our sojourn on this earth, however long it may be, in anticipation of the New Creation, the end of our earthly sorrows, and our final Resurrection of body and soul to live with our Lord in righteousness and purity forever.” *Deaconess Bethany Stoeber, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – 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 "The One" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Universe does not have a plan for your life--but God does! (Genesis 24:14) 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 Too often when seeking guidance and direction on financial matters, we turn to the wisdom of the world. While it is wise to seek advice from financial experts, we would be wiser still to look to God’s Word, which is rich in counsel regarding money and possessions. There we learn that God is the source and owner of all things and that He gives us money as a tool to be used to provide for our own needs, to help provide for the physical and spiritual needs of others, and to expand God’s Church.

**WHEN WE SPEND MONEY CAREFULLY,
 SAVE IT DILIGENTLY, AND GIVE IT
 GENEROUSLY, WE ARE MONEY WISE.**

“Honor the Lord with your wealth...”
 (Proverbs 3:9).



Growing in Grace – August 22nd & 25th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Missions</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$	<i>Total Attendance:</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	\$	<i>Total Communed:</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	
<i>Total</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	9/	9:00 am	Divine Worship
Monday	9/	-----	-----
Tuesday	9/	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	9/		
Thursday	9/	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/	-----	-----
Saturday	9/	-----	-----
Sunday	9/	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Christian Education Sunday

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
Church Office Heidi, Church Secretary
Principal
School Office Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.
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