

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## Christian Education Sunday

September 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



*Image:* "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them,  
for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16)

## 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 "Why Children?"**

Lutheran education began in response to some disappointing survey results. It was 1528; the Reformation had been going on for eleven years. Martin Luther was a university professor and wanted to learn how well the teachings of grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone had been absorbed into the local congregations. So, he sent out visitors to the parishes in his German state, Saxony. The survey results prompted the writing of what we know today as Luther's Small Catechism. He was blunt and candid in his preface to the Catechism about what the visitors discovered: *The deplorable, miserable conditions which I recently observed when visiting the parishes have constrained and pressed me to put this catechism of Christian doctrine into this brief, plain, and simple form. How pitiable, so help me God, were the things I saw: the common man, especially in the villages, knows practically nothing of Christian doctrine, and many of the pastors are almost entirely incompetent and unable to teach. Yet all the people are supposed to be Christians, have been baptized, and receive the Holy Sacrament even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments and live like poor animals of the barnyard and pigpen. What these people have mastered, however, is the fine art of tearing all Christian liberty to shreds.* (Luther's Small Catechism, © 1986 Concordia Publishing House). The need for faithful Lutheran education has not diminished. Today, we celebrate the blessings God has given us through Lutheran education, and we ask Him for His continued providence on our schools and teaching.

### **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: As outlined in the bulletin**

#### **✕ PREPARATION ✕**

**OPENING HYMN 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3, Thursday night only)**

**Grace Lutheran School Choir—"Grateful" (Sunday only)**

***(Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song)***

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES *Matthew 18:3-4*

Pastor: Jesus teaches us: "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

People: Thanks be to God.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In faith and in God's fear, let us come before God's throne of grace, confessing our sins, and trusting in His forgiveness and restoration.

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

Pastor: Merciful Father,

People: we confess that we are not the children You created us to be. Our sin has separated us from You and marked us on the path of death and destruction. We confess that we are sinful by nature and that we have added to this sin by our thoughts, words, and actions that break Your Law. Trusting in the forgiveness Jesus won for us on the cross, we come before You to beg Your mercy and to restore Your fallen children. Forgive us our sins and create in us new hearts that we may love You with our whole heart and in obedience follow You all the days of our lives. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

## ✠ WORD ✠

## INTROIT (Psalm 127; *antiphon: v. 3a, read responsively*)

Pastor: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD. Unless the LORD builds the house, those  
who build it labor in vain.

**People:** Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

**Pastor:** It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;

**People:** for He gives to His beloved sleep.

**Pastor:** Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,

**People:** the fruit of the womb a reward.

**Pastor:** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior

**People:** are the children of one's youth.

**Pastor:** Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

**People:** He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD.

#### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** Lord Jesus Christ, You have entrusted to Your people the task of teaching all nations.

Enlighten with the wisdom of Your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn that the joyous truth of the Gospel may be known in every generation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

#### **BLESSING OF BIBLES *(the Bibles are generously provided from the Grace Lutheran Matt Meyer memorial fund, SUNDAY ONLY)***

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

Pastor: The Lord God, by His Holy Spirit, has caused all Holy Scripture to be “written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Such learning takes place when we hear “the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” It is fitting that these Bibles be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. (Romans 15:4, Luke 8:15)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: **who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You have given us Your holy Word to be a lamp to our feet and a

light to our path. We implore You to bless these Bibles. Enlighten the hearts and minds of those who read them, and open the ears of all who hear the Gospel proclaimed from them, that by Your Spirit they may earnestly hold fast to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these Bibles.

People: **Amen.**

### **THE REDEDICATION OF OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL & ECC TEACHERS & STAFF & GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SUNDAY ONLY)**

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be re-dedicated as [*name of position(s)*] at [*name of congregation*], a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy. Hear the Word of the Lord:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Beloved in the Lord, you are to assist me, the minister of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God’s people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism. While holiness of life and

obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

*Teachers: I do.*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness Spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in Their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

**People: We do.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I re-dedicate you as [*name of position(s)*] at [*name of congregation*] in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **PROMISES OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Pastor: Now, then, all you who are parents: Will you promise to raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your teaching? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

*Parents: We will, by the grace of God.*

Pastor: And how about you children? Will you promise to listen to your parents, learning from them, and obey them, helping wherever you can? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your learning? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

*Children: We will, by the grace of God.*

Pastor: Finally, I ask all of you: Will you study the Word of God when you have opportunity, here in church and with your families or friends? Will you endeavor to share the faith in your hearts, teaching others by word and

example? Will you seek to exhibit Christ as the heart of your living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

**People:**     **We will, by the grace of God.**

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers in this congregation, and as teachers and learners in your daily living, to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

**People:**     **Amen.**

Pastor: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✕ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ecclesiastes 1:1-14***  
**(*All is Vanity without God*)**

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

**Lector:**     **This is the Word of the Lord.**

**People:**     **Thanks be to God.**

**CATECHISM** *The Table of Duties from Luther's Small Catechism*

**Pastor:** What do children owe to their parents?

**People:** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." (*Ephesians 6:1-3*)

**Pastor:** What do parents owe to their children?

**People:** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (*Ephesians 6:4*)

**EPISTLE LESSON** *Acts 2:37-41*

*(Repent and be baptized, every one of you.)*

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA VERSE** *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."* (*Matthew 22:37-40*)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 19:41-48*

*(Jesus weeps over Jerusalem & cleanses the temple)*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.



When [Jesus] drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**ALL:** 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*

**SERMON HYMN 864 Shepherd of Tender Youth (vs. 1-3)**

## **SERMON “All Is Vanity Apart from Christ” (Ecclesiastes 1:1-14; Luke 19:41-48)**

### **Offering/Attendance**

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

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



### *Stand*

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

✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠

### **ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS**

Pastor: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament. (*From Lutheran Worship copyright © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission*).

### **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting

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 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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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

**People:** 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.

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD** (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*)

Pastor: 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."

## **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:

- *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)
- *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)
- *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)
- *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**

-725 Children of the Heavenly Father (vs. 1-4)

-865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

*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 THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: For the unseen mercy of God that has been revealed to us,  
People: we give You thanks, O God.

Pastor: For those who have revealed the Lord's truth by teaching us His  
Word,  
People: we give You thanks, O God.

Pastor: For the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life,  
People: we give You thanks, O God. Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.  
People: Amen.

*Sit*

#### **CLOSING HYMN 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)**

##### **Announcements**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!  
People: Thanks be to God!



*Alter flowers were given this week by Stanley Gumm  
In Honor of Sylvia*

#### **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; **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); **Diana** (surgery) friend of Wally & Margie Spaeth; **William** (hospitalized) friend of Joy Lussier.

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

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;*** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:Paulinemom@aol.com). **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

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

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

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

	<b><u>Thursday 9/5 6:30pm</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday 9/8 9:00am</u></b>
<b><u>Elders</u></b>	Brandon Dachel	Richard Jackson
<b><u>Readers</u></b>	Suzie Mirenda	Edward Taggatz
<b><u>Communion Set-up</u></b>	Janine & Marlene	Janine & Marlene
<b><u>Linens</u></b>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Keith Goodle	Eric & Lisa Kamprath
	Jim Robinson	Elizabeth Murphy
<b><u>Livestream</u></b>	Jennifer Olen	

**REMINDER:** If you have any announcements and/or additions for the *Equipper* please forward to our Church Secretary at [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you!

**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](mailto:meyorch@sbcglobal.net) or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> through January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 6:00-8:00pm in the School Library, with a break on Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org). You can also contact Jeanne Meyer for more information at: [meyorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyorch@sbcglobal.net) or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month)
- Thursday evening worship will remain the same at 6:30pm.

**There will be a Voters Meeting on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Attention 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

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

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>—Luke: *To All Nations*.** Luke's carefully written Gospel, compiled from both oral and written accounts, points to God's gracious salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. The peace that Christ has brought to the world enables us to break out in a liturgy of praise. The salvation story did not end with Christ's ascension, however; Christ's Church is called to go to "*all nations*"—men, women, children, the poor, the sick, and the disenfranchised—proclaiming the victory found only in Jesus Christ. We hope you can join us for our Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings at Grace as we learn how Luke's Gospel speaks to us about:

- God's plan for bringing salvation to both Jew and Gentile;
- believers' unceasing joy upon hearing the Good News;
- the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life and in our own;
- the enduring value and importance of prayer.

**Grace Ladies Guild** Our Welcome Back meeting will be held Saturday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10am in the Arts & Science room at school. We will be planning to host the Zone 1 Fall rally in October. All ladies are invited to attend.

**Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday** LWML Sunday will be celebrated in our worship services. Sept 26 & 29. The theme this year is "Ready to Serve" based on Luke 1:38. As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord leading Him to share that her copper coins, her mites, were "*everything she had, all she had to live on*" (Mark 12:43). **Don't forget to wear purple and bring along your change for the mite box!**

**Socktober!** LWML Sunday will kick off our annual SOCKTOBER drive for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. New socks of all sizes are welcome! **Information about the Milwaukee Rescue Mission can be found here <https://milmission.org/>** Look for the pink tote in the narthex for your socks. Thank you!

### **Ladies Bible Study**

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, "*God's Provision in a Wilderness World*" by Lindsay Hausch. Join us!!!

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>—Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!** Please join us TODAY for our church picnic. 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!!!





### **Sunday School Begins on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>**

It is for children 4K preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org). **You can register for Sunday**

**School by using the QR code in the Sunday School picture or by going to the Grace Lutheran home page at: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org).**

### **Registration Meeting Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran School.

**Save the Date for this year's ML Spartan Golf Open, held Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 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 \$11,558.00 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!

### **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 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY

**Catechism:** Ten Commandments—Fifth and Sixth Commandments

**Verse of the week:** Romans 5:19, “By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 524 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**— Seek First the Kingdom of God—Matthew 6:24-34

**Monday**— David Spares Saul’s Life a Second Time—1 Samuel 26:1-25

**Tuesday**— Saul Seeks Counsel from a Medium—1 Samuel 28:3-25

**Wednesday**— The Tragic Death of King Saul—1 Samuel 31:1-13

**Thursday**— David Mourns the Death of Saul—2 Samuel 1:1-16 (17-27)

**Friday**— David Reigns over All Israel—2 Samuel 5:1-5 (6-8) 9-10 (11-25)

**Saturday**—1 Kings 17:17-24

“Let us never forget and continue to trust in God as our only resource when we face difficult life issues. Continue to pray for our country as some leaders continue to pursue making laws that jeopardize precious lives and challenge God’s plan for life. Let us put our trust in God, not man.” *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*  
Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Conditioned by the Unconditional"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God's forgiving love for you in Christ is love that your accomplishments can't enhance and your failures can't diminish. (Genesis 25:23) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://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

**WHETHER GOD GIVES US LONG OR  
SHORT LIVES, HE EXPECTS US TO BE  
GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR TIME.**

“Walk in wisdom...making the best use of the time” (Colossians 4:5).



**Stewardship Minute**— When we use our time in service to others, we are using our time wisely and giving God glory. “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...” (Mark 10:45). It is clear that Jesus wants to develop that same servant heart in us. Our lives are God’s gift to us. How we use them is our gift to God. When we commit our lives and time to service in response to Jesus’ love for us, we are living wisely and fulfilling an important purpose for our lives. Service should be one of the primary uses of our time. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can change from being people who seek to serve ourselves into people who serve others.

**Growing in Grace – August 29<sup>th</sup> & September 1<sup>st</sup>**

<b>General Offering</b>	<b>\$4326.00</b>	
<b>On-Line Giving</b>	<b>Holiday Delay</b>	
<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Debt Fund</b>	<b>\$113.00</b>	<b>Total Attendance: 31/54</b>
<b>Mortgage Offering</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>Total Communed: 74</b>
<b>Portals of Prayer</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4459.00</b>	

**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	9/8	10:00 am 11:30 am	Christian Education Sunday - Divine Worship Church Picnic at School
Monday	9/9	6:30 pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting
Tuesday	9/10	7:00 am	Mens Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	9/11	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study Council Meeting
Thursday	9/12	6:30 pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/13	-----	-----
Saturday	9/14	-----	-----
Sunday	9/15	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study Sunday School 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
--------	----------------------	--

Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445

Fax:	Church/School	414-762-8869
	ECC	414-856-9262

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

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

