

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Stewardship Emphasis 1

October 3rd & 6th, 2024

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



Image: "O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures." (Psalm 104:24)

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 "Prepare Our Hearts to Offer Thanks to You, O God"

The gifts of God are experienced by His people as countless blessings. The life of stewardship is formed in response to those mercies. The talents one is given and the gifts one receives are individual and special. Looking at the world brings a response of both amazement and thanksgiving from God's well-loved people. Our God does all things well and invites us as His greatest creation to bring Him the fullest of our devotion and thanks, preparing our hearts to offer Him thanks and praise.

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 852 O God of Mercy, God of Might (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 24:1-6; antiphon: Psalm 3:8, sung responsively*)



Pastor: The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,*
the world and those who | dwell therein,

People: for He has founded it up- | on the seas*
and established it upon the | rivers.

Pastor: Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?*

And who shall stand in His | holy place?

People: He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,*
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear de- |
ceitfully.

Pastor: He will receive blessing | from the LORD*
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

People: Such is the generation of those who | seek him,*
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.

All: 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.

Pastor: Salvation belongs | to the LORD;*

Your blessing be on Your | people!

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

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

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

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

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

P Let us pray. Almighty God, all that we possess is from Your loving hand. Give us grace that we may honor You with all we own, always remembering the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 36:25-27*

(God's people are given new hearts.)

²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees.

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

Gradual (*Psalm 104:24, 27-28, 30, read responsively*)

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You | made them all;* the earth is full of Your | creatures.

People: These all | look to You,*
to give them their food in due | season.

Pastor: When You give it to them, they gath- | er it up;*
when You open Your hand, they are filled with | good things.

People: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are cre- | ated,*
and You renew the face | of the ground.

Epistle Lesson 1 John 3:16-18

(Love is revealed in deed and in truth.)

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

- 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 1st Sunday in Stewardship Emphasis—*“Alleluia! We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Alleluia!” (Romans 6:4)*

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

(The parable of the talents)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the

two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Nicene Creed *LSB 206*

- C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "God's Talents" (Matthew 25:14-30) 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 783 Take My Life and Let It Be (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Prepare Our Hearts to Offer Thanks!" (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Offertory 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (vs. 1-2)

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

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. Prepare our hearts to offer thanks to You, O God, and make all that we say and do an offering of praise for the salvation You have so graciously bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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. Remembering His life-giving passion and death, His glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again, we give thanks to You and ask You to bless us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and of His precious blood may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. 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

-809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1-3)

-570 Just as I Am, without One Plea (vs. 1-6)

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. Grant, O Lord, that the lips that have sung Your praise in the sanctuary may glorify You in the world, that the ears that have heard the voice of Your songs may be closed to the voices of clamor and dispute, that the eyes that have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope, that the tongues that have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth, and that the bodies of all who have tasted of Your Son's living body and blood may be restored to newness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- 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 816 From All That Dwell Below the Skies (vs. 1-3)

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



Altar flowers today are given by Tony & Suzie Mirenda in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary!!!

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Tom Janes (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength); Jim & Kari (healing and strength); Greg Voss (healing & strength); Curt Bayer (cancer) former member of Grace; Sindy Schmidt (healing); Gary Forsythe (dementia); Dominic (recovery from a stroke); Brittany (cancer); Greg (cancer); Judy (poor eyesight); Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); Linda (brain cancer); Bryan (cancer); Jenny Rice (cancer); Dale (cancer); Evan Kopperud (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; Sue de Shano (broken ankle) sister of Carol Loveall; Jake (cancer) Grandson of Rose Adams; Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; John Loveall (bone cancer) brother in law of Carol Loveall; Cris Evers (healing & strength); Georgeanne (Parkinsons disease) friend of Sharon Iseli; Laura (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; Diane Krueger (knee surgery); Don Adams (cancer) relative of Pauline Parker; Diana (surgery) friend of Wally & Margie Spaeth; Larry Herte (healing & strength); Linda Stecker's Son in Law (battling brain cancer); Ron Savarino (healing & strength); Jacob Schneider (leukemia) friend of Sharon Iseli; Brennan (motorcycle accident) friend of Greg & Gail Nowakowski; Jerry Urbaniak (healing & strength); Evelyn VanDoren (hospitalized); Julia & Gilbert Kahle (healing & strength) friends of the Taggatz family.

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

We mourn with the families of Delores Riemer and Brian Mentch, who were recently called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with Delores & Brian's families as they mourn the death of their loved ones that, casting every care upon You, they may know the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

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

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

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 10/3 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/21 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/21 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Kathryn Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson	Chris Cotter
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli	Sharon Iseli
<u>Acolyte</u>	David Penn	Abigail Norton	Ethan Conception
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Nick Norton	Lowell Johnson
	Lance Kopperud	Benjamin Tindall	Ron Savarino
			Lisa Kamprath
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

Choir at Grace

Choir practice will be starting soon on Thursday evenings. Our first practice will be October 17th following our Thursday evening worship service. Please contact Kathy Kolb for further details.

“Prepare Our Hearts”

Grace Oak Creek 2024 Stewardship Emphasis.

The gifts of God are experienced by His people as countless blessings. The life of stewardship is formed in response to those mercies. The talents one is given and the gifts one receives are individual and special. Looking at the world brings a response of both amazement and thanksgiving from God’s well-loved people. Our God does all things well and invites us as His greatest creation to bring Him the fullest of our devotion and thanks, preparing our hearts to offer Him thanks and praise.

October 6th, 2024—“Prepare Our Hearts to Offer Thanks to You, O God!” (Ezekiel 36:25–27)

October 13th, 2024—“Ten Bags of Gold Relate to the Plate” (Malachi 3:10)

October 20th, 2024 (Harvest Sunday)—“What Do You Mean, “Sacrifice” ?!” (2 Corinthians 8:3–5)

During our stewardship emphasis you will receive a commitment form & a time & talents survey. Please fill those out and bring them to church on Harvest Sunday (Commitment Sunday) Oct. 20th or return it to the church office when convenient. *(Extra commitment forms are available on the back table of the church and will be included next week in your bulletin).* I ask that, as you approach your commitment

decisions and how God can use your time, talents, and treasures for service in God’s Kingdom and in His Church, you seek God’s guidance in prayer. Let the love of God guide you in your decision.

Adult Membership Class at Grace Oak Creek –“*God Connects*”

We are forming a new adult membership class. It will be a one-day course on Sunday October 20th from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School located at 8537 South Pennsylvania Ave. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class leads to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Please let us know if you need child care to attend this new members class. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects. If you are interested in attending the class, please call the church office at: 414-762-8990 or email pastor at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org.



5th ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT TO BE HELD AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PARKING LOT: Children from Grace Lutheran and the surrounding community are invited to come to a “Trunk or Treat” event at Grace Lutheran School’s parking lot on Friday October 25th from 6:00-7:00pm. The children can come to our school parking lot to receive some Halloween Candy, some Christian tracts, and they will be able to have fellowship with other children and with members of our congregation. We are in need of volunteers for this event, please

contact Pastor Taggatz or the Grace Lutheran Church Office if you are interested in helping out with this event and providing candy for the children through the trunk of your car, truck or van: 414-762-8990 or church@graceoakcreek.org. During a Trunk or Treat event the trunk of one’s car is opened displaying candy, and often games are made available, and certain Halloween decorations. Because this is a Christian event, please do not decorate or come in costume with goblins, witches, and other occult attire. Ideas for how to decorate the trunks of your cars for this event can be found on *Pinterest*. The Oak Creek Fire & Police Department will be at this year’s Trunk or Treat to talk about fire and public safety with the children and *Better Together Café* will also be there to offer sweet treats and drinks for all who come to this event. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave Oak Creek WI 53154

All Saints Day—Any members who would like to recognize those of the Christian faith who have fallen asleep in Jesus this last year from November 2023 to the present, please let our church office know by Monday, October 28th. We will be remembering the saints who have gone to heaven in a special All Saints Day worship service on November 3rd, 2024.

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.

Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library starting Sunday September 15th—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.

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!!!

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 \$27,041.63 for the church & school furnace fund, thank you for your support!**

IN THE WORD FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Creed—First Article

Verse of the week: 1 John 4:9, “*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 35

Hymn of the week: LSB 822 “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Healing of the Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8

Monday— Solomon Builds the Temple—1 Kings 6:1, 7, 11-30

Tuesday— The Ark of the Covenant Is Brought into the Temple—1 Kings 8:1-21

Wednesday— Solomon’s Prayer at the Temple Dedication—1 Kings 8:22-40

Thursday— God’s Word to Solomon—1 Kings 9:1-9

Friday— Queen of Sheba and Solomon’s Wealth—1 Kgs. 10:1-13

Saturday— Isaiah 55:1-9

“Having received God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in His divine services to us in our congregations, we jointly put on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) in the public square, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. In so doing, we advocate for the sanctity of life from the moment of fertilization and pray that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our communities.” *Dr. Roni Grad, Catalina Lutheran Church Life Team and National Lutherans For Life Board of Directors member – 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 "Fit to Be Tied" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

A strong knot in the right place holds everything together. God made Jesus to be the "Master Point" to bind all people to Himself through faith. (Genesis 30:8) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org scroll down the page and click on, “listen now.” Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ	103.3 FM	Milwaukee, WI	Sun 6:30 am
WTMJ	620 AM	Milwaukee, WI	Sun 5:30 and & 6:30 am

**GOD WANTS US TO DEVELOP
AND LIVE WITH AN ATTITUDE
OF GRATITUDE**

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).



Stewardship Minute— Through faith, we understand that all that comes to us by grace is a gift from God. By grace we respond to God’s call to be stewards of His creation (Genesis 2:15). God’s grace not only gives us the privilege and honor to be stewards; we are empowered as stewards to use our gifts in service to others. Through faith we know that we are not to rely on our own power to do all that God asks of us. The Apostle Paul heard the Lord say, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Sufficiency in God means not being self-reliant. Only God is sufficient for us. He lavishes His grace on us, equipping us for every good work.

Growing in Grace – October 3rd & 6th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1108.25</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1003.57</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance: 33/73</i>
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>	<i>Total Communed: 85</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2296.82</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	10/6	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	10/7	6:00pm 6:30pm	Grief Share 6th-8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	10/8	7:00am	Mens Bible Study (OC Diner)
Wednesday	10/9	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Church Council Meeting
Thursday	10/10	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	10/11	-----	-----
Saturday	10/12	-----	-----
Sunday	10/13	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study 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
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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		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Church Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC
3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office
Mailing Address
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

