

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*



First Sunday in Advent

December 1st, 2024

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



Image: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)*

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 "Preparing for the Savior"

Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a "*happy new year*" in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin "*Adventus*" means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for our Savior. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ's humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.

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 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-4)

Stand

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 89:6, 14-16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt., sung responsively*)



Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Who in the skies can be compared | to the LORD?*

Who among the heavenly beings is | like the LORD?

Righteousness and justice are the foundation | of your throne;*
steadfast love and faithfulness go be- | fore you.
Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*
who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,
who exult in your name | all the day*
and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.
For our shield belongs | to the LORD,*
our king to the Holy One of | Israel.

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.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

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.**

During Advent the Hymn of Praise is omitted

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156

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

- P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

(The Lord's eternal covenant)

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

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

Gradual (*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt., read responsively*)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Lesson 1 *Thessalonians 3:9-13*

(Lives of the faithful made ready for Jesus' return)

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- 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 First Sunday in Advent—*"Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia."* (Psalm 24:7)

Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

(Ready and watching for the Son of Man)

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

²⁵[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- 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 everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "Closer to Jesus" (1 Thess. 3:9-13) The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. (Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message.)

Sermon Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-5)

Sermon "So Much to Be Thankful For" (1 Thess. 3:9-13)

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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

-508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near (vs. 1-5)

-620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing (vs. 1-6)

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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



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); Scott (kidney failure); Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); 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; 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; Larry Herte (healing & strength); Linda Stecker's Son in Law (battling brain cancer); Brennan (motorcycle accident, healing & strength) friend of Greg & Gail Nowakowski; Diane Poris (medical tests); Charlotte Klipfel (surgery); Gayle Stephen (pancreatic cancer) cousin of Suzie Mirenda; Martha Rowley (healing & strength) relative of Mary Rowley; Grace Miskimen (cancer) sister of Beth Jackson.

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

We mourn with the family of **Pauline Parker**, as they grieve over the death of her **Uncle Charlie Magestro**. **We pray:** *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with **Pauline Parker's family** as they mourn her **Uncle Charlie's** death 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

Assisting in Divine Service

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

	<u>Wednesday 11/27 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 12/1 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 12/1 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mark Olen	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine & Marlene	Kathy and Morgan	Kathy and Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		Kiley Stecker	Brilee Simmons
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Bob Buzzell	Mike Huber
	Connie Roettgen	Lynn Buzzell	Cathy Weeks
			Edward Taggatz
			Martin Taggatz
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

Praise God for the outpouring of support for Ebou Faye, of People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) to Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus in the Southeast Wisconsin area! Last Sunday we had Ebou Faye come and speak to us about the Christian outreach that he is doing in our Milwaukee area. Thanks to your generous support we were able to raise \$723 for his ministry. If you would like to donate to this special outreach and learn more about the work that Ebou and the people of POBLO are doing, please check out their website at: <https://www.poblo.org/>

The Mites collection dates for December are: 12-5 and 12-8

“Poinsettias for Christmas!”

Special thanks to those who placed poinsettias in the chancel area this year. Thank you for making our Church Sanctuary beautiful during the seasons of Advent & Christmas!!! God bless you all!!!

Greg and Gail Nowakowski

Sharon Russell

LeRoy Handle

Tony and Suzie Mirenda

Dawn Jantz

Mike and Barb Huber

Rick and Cathy Weeks

Leah Abelt

Lori Kachelmeier (In Honor/In Memory of Jim, Steve and her father Norman)

Bob and Gail Olen

Ron and Mary Savarino

Craig and Donna Marie Roush

David and Amy Pankow

Donna Smith

Mark and Jennifer Olen (In Honor/In Memory of Susan Olsen)

Sandy Hamburger (In Honor/In Memory of Del Hamburger)

Brandon and Tricia Dachel

Janice Barrett

Exciting News: Debt Reduction Fund and Furnace Fund Paid in Full!

We are overjoyed to announce that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, both our **Debt Reduction Fund** and **Furnace Fund** have been fully paid in full! Your faithful prayers, contributions of time, talents, and treasures have made this possible, and we are so deeply grateful for each and every one of you. With the Furnace Fund completed, we are now able to move forward with replacing our church's boiler, which has faithfully served us for over 20 years. In addition, we will upgrade all the older furnaces and air conditioners in our school building, ensuring a more efficient and comfortable space for our students, staff, and congregation. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! We celebrate this milestone together, giving thanks to God for His abundant blessings and for your steadfast commitment to the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. Thank you, and may God continue to bless our congregation and its mission to share the love of Jesus!

Welcome to our New Members at Grace!!! We welcome a new family to Grace as of this past month. We are so happy that you have joined our Church family!!! *Sean & Erica McKinney and their children, Charlotte & Avery.*

Your 2025 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childcare Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you! ****Please do not use until January 2025.****

2025 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2025 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- ❖ Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.
- ❖ Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
- ❖ You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
- ❖ Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.
- ❖ Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.

Mitten Tree *"O Mitten tree, O Mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold! O Mitten tree, O mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold. We will fill you with hats and mittens! Wrap you with warmth and love. O mitten tree, O mitten tree Your branches are so bare and cold."* Thank you! -Ladies Guild. Once again this year, the Mitten Tree has been placed in the narthex. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group. Please help us to *"decorate"* the tree! All sizes are needed! If you are a knitter or crocheter...Pauline Parker has bins of yarn to be used for this project...please reach out to her if you need some

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.

Grace Counter Volunteers Needed - We are looking for volunteers to be considered for training as counters and stand-by counters, beginning in January 2025. The counters work in pairs, so either individuals or a couple would be welcome. Each pair of counters is scheduled for one counting session per month that takes about 2 hours, usually on a Sunday after the late service, but the schedule can be very flexible. Complete training is provided, and newly assigned counters are scheduled with experienced people. This is an important process in our church's administration, and we welcome interested members. If you would like more information, please contact our Financial Secretary, Lori Kachelmeier at jlkachel12@gmail.com or 414-828-0290.

Substitute Wraparound Care Worker Needed at the Day School: We are in need of a substitute wraparound care worker at Grace from 6:30-8:05am or that can be available from 3:30-5:30pm, Monday through Friday. The pay for this position is \$15.00 an hour. If you are interested in helping out with this position in subbing on a routine basis, please contact our ECC Director Rachel Miliacca at eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org or at 414-762-8755.

Choir at Grace

Choir practice is on Thursday evenings in the church following worship. Please consider joining our church choir. Music has a unique way of connecting us with God, and being a part of the choir is a beautiful opportunity to share your voice and your faith. Whether you're an experienced singer or someone who simply loves to sing, we welcome you with open arms. Martin Luther once said, *"He who sings, prays twice."* Please contact Kathy Kolb, our Choir Director, for further details if you are interested in joining our church's choir.

Ladies Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, *"Flowing from the Cross: Six Facets of God's Forgiveness"* by Daniel Paavola. Join us!!!

Saturday January 18th - Fellowship Bingo - Our Fellowship Committee will once again have a Fellowship Bingo Night on Saturday January 18th. from 6:30-8:00. It will be a free night of fellowship, fun, food and prizes. We will ask that you bring finger food to pass and your own nonalcoholic beverages for your family. (We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages on school property. This event is for all Church, School and ECC families. Keep the date saved and we will put more information out as the date gets closer. Upcoming Events--- On March 29th we will be having a Game Night. You will be able to bring your favorite board game to play. If you don't have a board game or you would like to play a game, you will be able to join in the games that we will have available. More information to follow. We will also have an Ice Cream Social in the summer. Keep watch for any other Events we will put out and more information will be following.

2024 Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

"Come, Let Us Adore Him"

It is true that God deserves our worship and praise for all that He has done for us. And in the birth of Jesus into our world, born to save us from our sins, born to give us eternal life—God has given us His very Best. To which we can only respond: *"Come, Let Us Adore Him!"* The events surrounding Jesus' birth—the prophecies foretold and fulfilled, the birth of John to point to Jesus, the divine way God guided Mary and Joseph, the preservation of Jesus' life from King Herod—all speak to God's intimate involvement in our salvation. This is the God we adore—the God who spared not His own Son but gave Him up for us all.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox by going to this link: <https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/default.asp>. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons. We have copies of the Advent Devotions available for pick up in our church narthex, which will include our Holiday Worship Schedule that you can share with your neighbors, family, and friends to invite them to worship at Grace during the holiday season!!!



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2024

“The Nativity: Songs of God and Men”

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. The Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! A Danish hymn from around 1600 calls out to us as the church: “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!” It closes each stanza with an address to our Advent Lord: “Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee” (*LSB* 335). May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond! Please note, due to our special holiday worship there will be no Thursday night worship services on Thursday December 26th and January 2nd.

Thursday Dec. 5th 6:30pm–Advent Midweek 1 “The Song of Zechariah” Luke 1:67–80

Sunday December 8th --Special Trim the Tree Service 2nd Sunday in Advent

Thursday Dec. 12th 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 2 “The Song of Elizabeth” Luke 1:39–45

Thursday Dec. 19th 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 3 “The Song of Mary” Luke 1:46–56

Tuesday Dec. 24th 4pm, 5:30pm–Christmas Eve “The Song of the Angels” Luke 2:1–20

Wednesday Dec. 25th 9:30am–Christmas Day “Idols and Lies, Word and Flesh” John 1:1–18

No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 26th & Thursday January 2nd

Wednesday January 1st New Year’s Day Worship 6:30pm “Endings and Beginnings” Isaiah 51:4–6

Sunday January 5th The Epiphany of our Lord 8am & 10:30am Services “Soaked and Bloody: Our Lord and You” John 2:1–11

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Martin Luther High School Music Department invites you to their annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 6 at 7:00 PM. The concert, entitled “*Let Earth Receive Her King*” will feature the Troubadours, Chorus, Concert Choir, Rhythmic Reeds, Spartan Band, and Symphonic Band. Please join us for this festive event! Ticket reservations may be made by scanning the QR code on the poster or by calling 414-421-4000. Tickets are also available at the door!

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.

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.

"Do you ever doubt the love of God? Perhaps you are just 'looking for love in all the wrong places,' if you'll pardon the expression. Don't look to your own feelings and emotions which can change with the wind, but look to Bethlehem and the manger. See God's love in this that His only begotten Son was sent to be humbled and to die for you. Understand that at Christmas 'God so loved the world that He gave ...'" *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – 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 "Will Everything Sad Come Untrue?" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A mother and her young son trade a life of privilege for one of poverty, a story that is borderline unbelievable, yet nonetheless true. (Jeremiah 33:16) 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

IN THE WORD FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Second and Third Petitions

Verse of the week: John 10:27-28, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 25

Hymn of the week: LSB 332 "Savior of the Nations Come" (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Triumphal Entry—Matthew 21:1-9

Monday— The Pharisee and the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-14

Tuesday— Jesus Teaches Us to Pray in the Sermon on the Mount—Mt. 6:5-15

Wednesday— John's Birth Announced to Zacharias—Luke 1:1-25

Thursday— Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-26

Friday— Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Matthew 26:36-45

Saturday— Malachi 4:1-6

**ADVENT IS PREPARATION FOR
CHRIST'S COMING – HIS SECOND
COMING! THE BABY OF BETHLEHEM
WILL COME AGAIN, THIS TIME IN GLORY!**

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in Heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father"
(Philippians 2:10-11).



Stewardship Minute— In his book, *A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless World*, Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller writes, *"The Bible is a love story. God is love. You are the beloved. This is astonishing when we consider how unlovely and how unlovable we are."* God saw our depravity and sin and sent His Son so we could receive this love and forgiveness. God's love never changes, and we have the joy of receiving more of His love daily. Loving God and others is what matters most in life. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God and love our neighbors (Matthew 22:37-39). All love comes from God, and we are able to love because we have received His love through Jesus.

Growing in Grace – November 21st & November 24th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1911.25</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$676.41</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance 21/80</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Communed 76</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$12.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2639.66</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	12/1	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	12/2	6:30-8pm 6:30 pm	Grief Share 6 th -8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	12/3	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	12/4	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study Grace All Boards Meeting
Thursday	12/5	6:30 pm	Advent Service
Friday	12/6	6:30 pm	ECC Christman Program
Saturday	12/7	-----	-----
Sunday	12/8	8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Divine Worship/ Trim the Tree Service Adult Bible Study Divine Worship/ Trim the Tree Service

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
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School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

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School & Church Office

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