



# Equipper

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.

## December 2024



### *Pastor's Message*

#### ***"Who Needs Repentance?"***

***Mark 1:4, "John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."***

In many Lutheran services on Sundays, the congregation confesses together: *"O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee, and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee, of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being."* (For example, *Lutheran Service Book* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2006), 184.)

That is a prayer of repentance to God for His gracious forgiveness. It is an appropriate prayer as we begin the season of Advent, because Advent is a season for repentance where we hear from the mouth of John the Baptist himself to prepare for the coming of Jesus our Savior at Christmas. It sounds like something that John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, might call us to say. Repentance, the God-induced sorrow for our sins in response to His Law, also causes us to fall at the feet of Jesus seeking the forgiveness for our sins that only He can grant. Again, that sounds very much like where John the Baptist would want us to be.

Advent means *"coming."* In this little season of about 4 weeks, we prepare for our Lord's threefold arrival. During these days, first we seek from our Lord renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we may greet Him with a joyful, clear conscience when He appears as Judge on the Last Day. Only humble, repentant, Spirit-wrought faith can make us ready to lift up our heads with joyful confidence on that day because our redemption is drawing near. Second, we seek from Him renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we welcome Him as He comes to us even now in His Means of Grace. The Church tends to offer more opportunities to worship during these days. This allows the light of Christ's Word to shine even more on our hearts and minds. Third, we seek from Him renewal in His gifts of repentance and faith so that we may welcome our Lord with joy at the great Feast of His Nativity. Through hearing the Word and receiving the Sacrament, we will go in heart and spirit to Bethlehem. In faith, we will behold the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger, hear the song of angels with the shepherds, and fall down before Him with the Magi.

But there is a problem today with this simple, straightforward, powerful truth of the need for repentance. So, few people think that they sin anymore. One reason that many people don't take comfort in God's forgiveness is because they don't think they need it. Instead, they actually take comfort in their sin, as if God is unconcerned at worst, or tolerant at best, with whatever one desires to do. In a Newsweek article way back in 1995, the author noted, "*Ninety percent of Americans say that they believe in God. Yet the urgent sense of personal sin has all but disappeared in the current upbeat style of American religion.*" (<https://www.newsweek.com/what-ever-happened-sin-185180>)

It's much worse today. The number of believers is continuing to fall and the disregard for any notion of our actions being sinful is on the rise. Just look at what so many of us consume or do for entertainment these days as proof of our callousness to any notion of sin. In fact, all too often public sin will get you praises, endorsements, and even thousands of "*likes.*" Shame? It's rarely in our vocabulary today, and, if it is, it's surely not viewed as a positive thing.

So, here's the point: *John the Baptist's message is just as relevant today as it was then because, whether we acknowledge that or not, sin is just as destructive.* In fact, our brokenness remains more than evident. The "*wages of sin*" is still "*death*" (Romans 6:23). And, since God loves the world, He sent a forerunner, John the Baptizer, to prepare the world for a salvation that all of us need. John was sent into a world that had a sin problem, a brokenness that sinful people could never fix on their own. The world was arrogant then, just as it is today. Ever since the Fall into sin, it has been full of people who are full of themselves -- *hedonists, moralists, rationalists, secularists, and pragmatists* who believe that life was/is under their control alone. But the powerful, heart-transforming message of John in Matthew 3:2 still stands, "*Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,*" in and through Jesus Christ! Why? Because life is all about being reconciled to the God who created and redeemed us. Without such a relationship with God, life means nothing in the end. Apart from God, modern people are just as foolish as ancient people, but Jesus came for us all.

In his *Confessions*, St. Augustine reminds us of this when he says, "*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*"  
<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/ourheartisrestlessuntilitrestsinyou/>

Whenever I think about John the Baptist, I think about the fact that he was a bit of an oddity to many people of his day (see Mark 1:6). So, it shouldn't surprise us that his message seems odd today as well. But if you wish to receive the blessed forgiveness that comes by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus alone, you must take John's message about your sin seriously too. Does anyone repent today? Yes! Because there are people today, just like then, who acknowledge their need for forgiveness. Today John's message is still getting through. Repentance, anyone? Let it start with you and me.

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord Jesus, John the Baptizer prepared the way for Your saving work for us all. May his call to repentance be heard in my heart today for my life and salvation in Jesus too. Amen.*

See You in Worship,  
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Pastor John M. Taggatz



# Announcements

Please Note

**Call the church office at 414.762.8990**

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

*For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.*

*Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231*

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

*Heidi, Church Secretary*

*Church office: 414.762.8990*

*Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm*

**REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Look for the LARGE mite box  
to drop your change and dollars in to!  
The mite box will be out on December 5th & 8th



When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Steve Gettelman. His email address is: [principal@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org)

## ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: [graceoc](https://www.graceoc.com) to 206-859-9405, use this [QR Code](#) or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



## **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.\*\*

### **Giving to Grace Through The Thrivent Choice Program**

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.

**Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

**For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:** <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

## **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!!!*

## **Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library**

### **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.

### ***Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Schedule***

*Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:00am-9:30am in the school library*



## **Grief Share Group 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 6:30-8:00pm 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 414-423-0010 or Lori Kachelmeier at [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@gmail.com) or 414-828-0290.



# Grace Ladies Guild

Saturday-December 14

10am-11:30am At school

Ladies, you are invited to join us as we take some time from the Christmas hustle to enjoy some Christmas fellowship. Feel free to bring along a treat/snack to share. If you would like to participate, we will be having a Christmas gift exchange as well! Gift limit is \$10.

Cookies for Shut ins- thinking of others this Christmas season, we ask that you bring a dozen cookies which we will assemble into packages and deliver to Grace's shut ins.

Looking forward to seeing you at Guild!

Feel free to contact Jennifer Olen with any questions.

## Socktober Report

Wow! We are thrilled to report that **400 PAIRS** of socks were donated for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

Thank you for your heartfelt generosity!



## **LWML SWD 2025 Winter Getaway**

**Jan 31 - Feb 1, 2025**

### **Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah Wisconsin**

The 2025 Winter Getaway Committee invites you to plan for after the holidays! Join us in Tomah for a weekend in which we focus on how **WONDERFULLY MADE** our great Creator has made us. Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, will be our speaker. Pastor Salemink will share with us how we are Wonderfully Made by God's Grace, Wonderfully Made as Male & Female, and Wonderfully Made for Needing One Another. On Friday evening we will offer a book discussion breakout session for those interested. Ladylike: Living Biblically, by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle, reimagines what it means to be a Christian woman in our feminized secular society. This should be a great discussion!

Servant events (some pre-getaway work involved), Mites in Action speakers, Gifts from the Heart opportunities, and general fellowship will add to the weekend.

Registration is now open with a January 17, 2025 deadline!

Hotel rate deadline is December 31, 2024.

More information available at [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)

Or contact Jennifer Olen [olenjennifer@aol.com](mailto:olenjennifer@aol.com)

*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you,  
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works*

*Psalms 139:13-14a*

## **Save the Date! Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> - Fellowship Bingo**

Our Fellowship Committee will once again have a Fellowship Bingo Night on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 non alcoholic beverages for your family. (We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages on school property. This even is for all Church, School and ECC families.

Keep the date saved and we will put more information out as the date gets closer.

Up coming Events--- On March 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



# *Opportunities at Grace*

## *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.

## *Ushers Needed*

We are in critical need of ushers for both Thursday and Sunday services. If you have thought about being an usher but are concerned about the duties, please don't be. Here are some of the main duties:

- Arrive 20 minutes before service
- Pass out bulletins
- Collect offerings
- Usher people for communion
- Clean up after service

## *Greeting Card Ministry*

There are cards, stamps, names of shut-ins, prayer lists for anyone to take and send cards to shut ins and those on the prayer line, especially those on the long term prayer list, on the table in the narthex. Pauline Parker has applied to Thrivent Action Team and they will give us \$250 for stamps and cards. Thrivent has approved this project. Please feel free to take the cards, stamps and list of names and a copy of the prayer list, send out the cards even if you don't know the people just to let them know they are being prayed for and that we at Grace care.

## *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 [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@gmail.com) or 414-828-0290.

## *Substitute Wraparound Care Worked 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](mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org) or at 414-762-8755.

## 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.

## 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.

## Portals of Prayer Devotional

Over the years the church has provided the Portals of Prayers devotional book to our members. Throughout these years the church has carried this expense. To help offset that burden we now have envelopes available in the narthex for our members to designate funds to this devotional book. It is our goal to continue to provide this amazing tool to our members in their faith journey.

## Mitten Tree

Please help us fill the mitten tree in the narthex for South Milwaukee Human Concerns. Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are needed. We could especially use men's gloves.

Thank you!

Grace Ladies Guild







## ***"Being a Living Sacrifice"***

What should our response be to God for giving us our physical lives, our new lives in Christ, and life eternal to come? In addition, we know through faith that God is the creator and owner of all things, so what should our appropriate response be to show our gratitude? God commanded Old Testament believers to honor and worship Him through ceremonial laws which included tithing. As New Covenant Christians, we are no longer bound to the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. As New Testament Christians, our motivation to express our gratitude comes from Christ Who gave His life for us. Through Jesus, we not only have an abundant life today (John 10:10), but we will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

In determining how we are going to show our thanks, we often get wrapped up in deciding if we are going to give two, five, or ten percent or more of our income to our church. We may also question whether it is important for us to join a committee or become a member of one of the boards in our church. Are we going to participate in various Christian causes or activities? The Apostle Paul went well beyond these questions when he exhorted the Roman believers (and us) to *"present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"* (Romans 12:1-2). Paul expected that Jesus should be the Lord of every area of our lives. As recipients of God's grace, love, and mercy, we are to commit our lives to Him.

Being a living sacrifice for God does not mean that we spend all day on our knees repenting, praying, or reading the Bible. It means that wherever we are or whatever we are doing, we belong to God and are in His service. It is an inner attitude of having a heart and mind for God. He is in control of our lives. In the Old Testament, God's people brought animal sacrifices to God. By God's grace, as New Covenant Christians, we are encouraged to present ourselves to Him as a sacrifice of praise, worship, and service. Because of Who God is and what He has done for us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He deserves nothing less than our whole selves. By God's grace, we can be living sacrifices because we are *"strengthened with all power according to His glorious might..."* (Colossians 1:11).

*Blessings on your Stewardship journey!*

## ***Stephen Ministers***

## ***Personal Angels***



Throughout the Bible, angels are a visible representation of God's presence, showing that God is there and actively involved in people's lives.

Stephen Ministry demonstrates God's presence in people's lives in a similar, tangible way—by training lay people to care for those who are hurting. There are some churches who call these lay caregivers "personal angels" because of how they share God's love and compassion during a time of deep need.

Our goal is to make people feel as if God has walked beside them to help them feel God's love.

We are here to listen and care, whatever a person's challenges are, we want to walk beside them and offer support. There is no need that is too small to ask for a Stephen Minister. We are here to listen in **Confidentiality**. Our Stephen Ministers do not know the names of the care receivers that another Stephen Minister has.

We have walked with many different people with many different needs for the last 20 years. I myself have had a couple of Stephen Ministers at different times. When my Daughter passed away and when I was going through a difficult time. There is no time limit that you have a Stephen Minister. It can be as short as a couple of months or as one of our Stephen Ministers has had his care receiver for several years. It is up to you.

This a free ministry of Grace is available to anyone in our church or community. The Stephen Ministry program has been at Grace for over 20 years and was developed over 40 years ago by Kenneth C. Haugk a Lutheran Minister in St Louis Mo. When he decided he wanted to help the people of his congregation. And it has grown from there.

How can you get a Stephen Minister? If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz or to one of our Stephen Leaders, Jeanne Meyer or Lori Kachelmeier.

If you would be interested in being a Stephen Minister please talk to one of our leaders or Pastor Taggatz.

Pauline Parker – Stephen Minister

# 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 will 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!!!

## What is Advent?

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, December 1, 2024, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany January 6, 2025.





# 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 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Thursday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm–Advent Midweek 1**

“The Song of Zechariah” Luke 1:67–80

### **Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> --Special Trim the Tree Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

### **Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 2**

“The Song of Elizabeth” Luke 1:39–45

### **Thursday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 3**

“The Song of Mary” Luke 1:46–56

### **Tuesday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm, 5:30pm–Christmas Eve**

“The Song of the Angels” Luke 2:1–20

### **Wednesday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am–Christmas Day**

“Idols and Lies, Word and Flesh” John 1:1–18

### **No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup> & Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Wednesday January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year’s Day Worship 6:30pm**

“Endings and Beginnings” Isaiah 51:4–6

### **Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of our Lord 8am & 10:30am Services**

“Soaked and Bloody: Our Lord and You” John 2:1–11

*We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.*

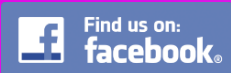
*Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!*

*We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!*

*LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!*



*gracelutheran\_oakcreek*



*Grace Lutheran Church, School & Early Childhood Center  
Oak Creek, WI*



## **Introducing RaiseRight -- the new name for Scrip The same program and process, just a different name.**

**What is RaiseRight?** It's a no-cost fundraiser that helps support the ministries at Grace. We purchase gift cards at a discounted rate and sell them at face value. Each merchant sets their own discount. The discount percentage is on the form.

**How does it work?** You complete an order form to purchase gift cards through a RaiseRight coordinator. Forms are on the table in the Narthex, in the church office or from a RaiseRight Coordinator. Return the completed form and payment to a RaiseRight Coordinator, who will be in the Narthex after each service or to the church office. You receive the face value of the cards you ordered. If the card you ordered is in our stock, you will receive it immediately. Otherwise, we will order the card and you will receive it the following week. The difference between the face amount and the discounted amount is used to support the ministries at Grace for our church, school and ECC.

### **An added benefit to parents of students at Grace School, ECC or Martin Luther High School**

You will receive half of the discounted amount we receive toward the tuition you pay. If you do not have tuition to pay, you can indicate on the form to "Support a Student" and have half of the discount go toward a student who needs help with their tuition. For example: You purchase a \$100 gift card for Woodman's. You pay \$100 and receive a \$100 gift card. We receive a 5 percent discount, so pay \$95 for the card. You will receive \$2.50 toward your tuition. The more cards you purchase, the more tuition credits you receive.

**Help with the process** The RaiseRight coordinators are: Gail Nowakowski, Donna Dotson, Beth Jackson and Marlene Voss. You can call Gail Nowakowski at any time at 414-791-4075 with questions, or talk with one of the coordinators in the Narthex after each service.



## December

HAPPY

*Birthday!*

*May God bless you with an abundance of peace, joy, and love this coming year.*

[thinkabouteuchthings.com](http://thinkabouteuchthings.com)

12/1 Gabriel Dachel  
12/1 Wayne Meyer  
12/1 Joanne Morgan  
12/1 Jan Warmkessel  
12/4 Camryn Lau  
12/4 Jonathan Riffer  
12/6 Dennis Iseli  
12/8 Gail Nowakowski  
12/11 Chris Cotter  
12/11 Sara Durant  
12/11 Char Klipfel  
12/11 Erika Ziemontz  
12/12 Richard Jackson  
12/13 Lauren Frank  
12/13 Michael Simmons  
12/14 Rita Heinen

12/14 Ron Savarino  
12/18 Glenn Dotson  
12/18 Penelope Ryan-Thiessen  
12/18 Craig Salzer  
12/19 Christine Cooksy  
12/21 Donna Smith  
12/23 Carol Thurber  
12/24 Laura Morissette  
12/24 Arthur Steinborn  
12/31 Jacob Zalar

## **“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 Miranda**

**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**

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:00am Divine Worship</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Class</b> <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:30am Divine Worship</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>3</b> PJ Drive ENDS! 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Advent Service	<b>6</b> 6:30pm ECC Christmas Program	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Trim the Tree Service</b> <b>8:00am Divine Worship</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:30am Divine Worship</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>10</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>11</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Advent Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00am - 9:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am - 11:30am Grace Ladies Guild
<b>15</b> <b>8:00am Divine Worship</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Class</b> <b>9:15am Sunday School</b> <b>10:30am Divine Worship</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>17</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>18</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Advent Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:00am Divine Worship</b> <b>9:15am Adult Bible Class</b> <b>10:30am Divine Worship</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> *CHRISTMAS DAY* 9:30am Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:30am Divine Worship</b>	<b>30</b> 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>31</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)				

### Radio Worship Service

"The Lutheran Hour" can be heard anytime on the internet at lhm.org – scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am  
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am  
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



### Prayer Hot Line

*In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.*

10AM – 3PM  
Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM  
Pauline Parker, 764-5574

**Internet Prayerline**  
Pauline Parker  
[paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com)

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



**CHURCH & ECC**  
3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

**SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE**  
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

**WEBSITE**  
<https://graceoakcreek.org>

**Pastor John M. Taggatz**  
**PH: 414.762.8990**

**Thursday Worship 6:30 pm**  
**Sunday Worship 8:00 am and**  
**10:30 am**

