

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** "Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored, The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord. Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth!" (LSB 383:4)

# 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 your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

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 “*Soaked and Bloody: Our Lord and You*”**

Have you ever received a surprise present, one that was out of your own price range to get? That, in a nutshell, describes Epiphany. The Wise Men came to give presents, and instead received one their wealth could not have bought. We are included in this. We are baptized for the forgiveness of sins by His blood on the cross that covers our sins, once for all. That water and blood give us the greatest—and most expensive—gift in the world. Here we see Jesus revealed, manifested, in a star, in the coming of the Magi and the gifts they bring.

### **We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer**

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

# Order of Service...as outlined in your bulletin

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**OPENING HYMN** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (LSB 411 vs. 1-3)

*Stand*

### INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES *Colossians 1:15-20*

**Pastor:** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**People:** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

**Pastor:** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**People:** And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

**Pastor:** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

**People:** and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

**Pastor:** Do you recognize the truth—that you have not loved God with your whole heart nor loved your neighbor as yourself?

**People:** I confess that I have failed to keep the two great commandments by what I have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I don't deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love shown at the cross.

**Pastor:** Hear the great news: God has used two common earthly elements—water and blood—to forgive your sins and make you His very own. Through the cross of Christ and the blood of Jesus shed there, and because you have been baptized, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Thank You, Lord, for revealing Your mercy and grace to me on this great day of Epiphany.

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism,

**People:** by which You sacrificed Your life for ours and made us a part of Your family forever. Amen.

✘ WORD ✘

**INTROIT** *Psalm 45:6-8a; antiphon: v. 17*

**Pastor:** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

**People:** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

**Pastor:** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

**People:** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions; Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

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

**Pastor:** I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations;

**People:** therefore nations will praise You forever and ever.

**KYRIE**

**Pastor:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For revealing Your Son to the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For the peace of the whole world and the well-being of Your people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For all who come here to give the sacrifice of praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** Enlighten us, encourage us, and keep us in the true faith that leads to eternal life.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *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**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*Sit*

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1-6***

*(Isaiah boldly predicts that nations from everywhere would come to the light of their Messiah, which they have and still are doing.)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall

be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 72:1-15; antiphon: v. 18*

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

**People: who alone does wondrous things.**

Pastor: Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!

**People: May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!**

Pastor: Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

**People: May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

Pastor: May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**People: May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**

Pastor: In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**People: May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

Pastor: May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!

**People: May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!**

Pastor: For He delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper.

**People: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.**

Pastor: From oppression and violence He redeems their life, and precious is their blood in His sight.

**People: Long may He live; may gold of Sheba be given to Him! May prayer be made for Him continually, and blessings invoked for Him all the day!**

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

**People: who alone does wondrous things.**

**EPISTLE LESSON** *Ephesians 3:1-12*

*(He was revealed to and for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.)*

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has

now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**VERSE** *Matthew 2:2b*

Pastor: Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

**People: For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:1-12*

*(The wickedness of Herod, the flight to Egypt, and the slaughter of the innocents, fulfilling prophecy.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

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

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: 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  $\times$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (LSB 383 vs. 1-5)

SERMON “Soaked and Bloody— Our Lord and You” (John 2:1-11)



## OFFERTORY HYMN “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (LSB 805 vs. 1)

### OFFERING/ATTENDANCE

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

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



*Stand*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, You revealed Your Son to Gentiles on the day of Epiphany.

**People:** Use us, we pray, to bring light and peace where there is none right now.

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus, You were willing to shed Your blood on the cross for our forgiveness and have given us the hope of salvation.

**People:** Thank You for shedding Your blood and giving us the waters of Holy Baptism to make us Your own sons and daughters through faith in You.

**Pastor:** As You cared for the sick and still do, we remember before Your throne those among us who are sick and in need of Your care, [*especially . . .*].

**People:** As You did in Your earthly ministry, continue to love, care, touch, and heal them according to Your will.

**Pastor:** For Your kingdom, invisible to human eyes yet so very real, we lift up our voices in prayer.

**People:** We pray that You would use us by the working of Your Holy Spirit to open hearts and eyes to Your love and see Your kingdom.

**Pastor:** Merciful Father in heaven, You hold all authority and power in Your hands. Use those whom You have installed as rulers over us for our good and not our harm.

**People:** Use them to bring about blessing to those who are bringing justice and peace to our lands and to stop evildoers in their tracks.

**Pastor:** We also remember those who are persecuted for Your name.

**People:** For those who have to endure torture and persecution, give them the hope of their eternal reward.

Pastor: Almighty God, You are the fountain of all wisdom. You know what we need before we ever ask, even when we do not know what to ask or even how to ask.

**People: We are but mortal men and women, but You are immortal, invisible, and wise. Look upon us with compassion, care for us, and meet our needs.**

Pastor: These things we ask, almighty God, in Your name, trusting that in Your mercy and according to Your will, You will not only hear our prayers but answer them.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, almighty God, for revealing Your Son to the first Gentiles on this day. We thank You that You not only revealed Him but that He also shed His blood on the cross for our forgiveness. Through Your Holy Spirit, You give us access to the waters of Holy Baptism, making us Your own family. 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**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

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

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People: Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: 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 HYMNS

- “Let All Together Praise Our God” (LSB 389 vs. 1-4)
- “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (LSB 394 vs. 1-5)

*Stand*

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *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 THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by Your blood, You have redeemed us from sin, death, and Satan, and through the waters of Holy Baptism, You have made us Your own people. Continue to guide us by Your Holy Spirit that You would be revealed to us more each day though Your Word and Sacrament; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

#### BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

*Sit*

#### CLOSING HYMN "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (LSB 386 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); 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 surgery) 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 (upcoming surgery); Gayle Stephen (pancreatic cancer) cousin of Suzie Mirenda; Martha Rowley (healing & strength) Grandma of Mary Rowley; Grace Miskimen (cancer) sister of Beth Jackson; Dale (pancreatic cancer) brother of Joy Lussier; Mary (broken hip) friend of Joy Lussier; Evan Kopperud (hospitalized); Barb Praxel (healing & strength) and Joy Lussier (healing & strength).

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

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

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

### Assisting 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>Sunday 1/5 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/5 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Brandon Dachel	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Glenn Dotson	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		
<u>Ushers</u>	Madilyn Hundt	Andrea Szefflinski
	Garrison Hundt	Tommy Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	

## **New Members Class on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School**

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. I am looking to have the New Members Class on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. 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 may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need child-care. Watch an introductory video at: [www.lhm.org/GodConnects](http://www.lhm.org/GodConnects).

### **Ladies Guild-January Activity Meeting**

Saturday, January 11- 10am-Noon. All ladies are invited to assist with various activities: creating new LWML banner, coloring Phil's Friends cards and cutting out hearts for LWML SWD Winter Getaway. This will be a fun time to get together after the holidays! Just bring yourselves!

**Please take your Poinsettia home with you!  
Thank you for decorating the chancel for the holidays!**

**OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PANTHER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX HERE AT CHURCH FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK IT UP TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL...**

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 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.

**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 [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@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](mailto: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!!! **Please note:** There will not be Ladies Bible Study on Wednesdays December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet again on Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup>...



SCAN ME

**Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> - 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. **To register for this event, please go to:** <https://tinyurl.com/2xhy8kkf> A paper registration form is also available in the narthex.

**Grace Fellowship Committee 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.

**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.

**Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library starting Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>—Luke: To All Nations.** (*Please note: There will no Sunday morning Bible Class on Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>, we will resume Bible Class again on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>*) 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.

“Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God's child in the peace of Jesus.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "In the Beginning Was Dialogue"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.

(John 1:1) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) scroll down the page and click on, "*listen now.*" Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ 103.3 FM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

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

## IN THE WORD FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

**Catechism:** Lord's Prayer—Seventh Petition and Conclusion

**Verse of the week:** Romans 8:26, "*The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 72

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (stanzas 6-9)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12

Monday— The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52

Tuesday— The Death of Elisha—2 Kings 13:10-25

Wednesday—Israel Is Carried Away by the Assyrians—2 Kings 17:5-18 (19-41)

Thursday— King Uzziah of Judah—2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-23

Friday— Isaiah Is Called to Preach in Israel and Judah—Isaiah 6:1-13

Saturday—1 Kings 8:6-13

**LET US ADORE OUR SAVIOR LIKE  
THE SHEPHERDS DID – WITH OUR  
PRESENCE – AND LIKE THE MAGI  
DID – WITH OUR GIFTS.**

“Praise our God, all you His servants,  
you who fear Him, both small and  
great!” (Revelation 19:5)



## Stewardship Minute

On that Christmas day over two thousand years ago, Scripture tells us that the Magi (wise men) brought Jesus gifts, but, before presenting their gifts, they first gave Him honor through giving of themselves. Matthew 2:10-11 says, *“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”* Before we give God our treasures, let us first give Him our heart. This is the meaning of stewardship. God wants our praise and adoration.

**Financial Peace University at Grace Oak Creek!!!** Are you feeling the pinch from holiday shopping? Does your paycheck never seem to cover all the needs, let alone some of the wants? Would you like to be more generous in your giving to church and charity? If you answered yes to any of those questions, Financial Peace University is for you. It's a great way to learn how to make your money work for you, rather than constantly working for your money. Financial issues are one of today's biggest stressors, so spend a few Monday nights figuring out ways to save for your future. This class is led by Lisa Kamprath (a graduate and teacher of FPU) with guest appearances by her son, Nathan, who is a relationship banker with Chase. We'd love to help you thrive in 2025.



**When:** *Sundays, January 5th-February 23rd*

**Where:** Grace Lutheran School Building **Cost** \$20 (for workbook)

**Questions:** contact Lisa Kamprath at 414-659-0161.

**To sign up for this course please go to:** <https://tinyurl.com/39esdpek>

## Growing in Grace – December 24th, 25th and 29th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$4867.00		
<i>On-Line Giving for 12.26 and 1.2</i>	\$2057.78		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$20.00	<b>Total Attendance</b>	143/53/41
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6944.78</b>	<b>Total Communed</b>	<b>77</b>

**Please note: In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!**

### Opportunities at Grace this coming week!

Sunday	1/5	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:00pm	Divine Worship--Epiphany of our Lord Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship—Epiphany of our Lord Financial Pace University
Monday	1/6	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	1/7	7:00 am	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/8	9:30am 6:30pm 7:15pm	Ladies Bible Study All Boards Meeting Council Meeting
Thursday	1/9	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Saturday	1/11	8:00am 9:00am 10:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Chili Assembly Grace Ladies Guild
Sunday	1/12	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:00pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Financial Pace University

## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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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		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Heidi, Church Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

