

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** *"In him was life, and the life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)"*

**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 “*Life Shines in Darkness*”**

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light* (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus Christ has conquered death and brought life—*both immediate and immortal*—to light (2 Timothy 2:10). God bless our Gospel-motivated voice for life, for it shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it! Come out of the shadows and into the light. Sinfulness has broken humankind and left the world wrecked around us. Danger and despair, deception and dysfunction abound. Sanctity of life situations like surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis confront us with uncomfortable realities. Serious and genuine threats emerge: *pain and labors, poverty and obligations, abandonment and abuse, disgrace and sacrifice*. Yet the darkness reaches deepest right before the dawn. Jesus, the incarnate and crucified Son of God, our humble and gentle Lord, our risen and forgiving Savior radiates the light of life in the unlikeliest of places. Rejoice like Lutherans and embrace the sanctity of every human life! We get to receive each neighbor as gift and privilege, just like Jesus embraces us, speaking courage, showing compassion, and sharing every good.

### **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 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

#### Confession and Absolution

- P The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. *Romans 13:12*  
C **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5**
- P And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. *John 3:19*  
C **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. Psalm 90:8**
- P If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! *Matthew 6:23*  
C **I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication. Micah 7:9**
- P Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. *Isaiah 50:10* Our Savior Christ Jesus has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light. *2 Timothy 1:10* As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

Introit (*Psalm 27:1-2, 5-6, 13-14, read responsively*)

- P The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
C **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**
- P When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,  
C **my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

- P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
 C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**
- P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
 C **and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**
- P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord  
 C **in the land of the living!**
- P Wait for the Lord;  
 C **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!  
 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.**

### Hymn of Praise 906 O Day of Rest and Gladness (vs. 1-3)

#### Collect of the Day

- P Let us pray. O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

#### *(The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light)*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over

his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

### **Epistle Lesson *Ephesians 5:6-14***

***(St. Paul us exhorts as Christians to walk as children of light)***

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

*Stand*

### **Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205***

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia Verse for Lutherans for Life Sunday—***“Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. Alleluia.”*

### **Holy Gospel *John 1:1-14***

***(Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome)***

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not

any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Apostles' Creed *LSB 207***

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 "Life Shines in Darkness" (John 1:1-14)** 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 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (vs. 1-3)**

**Sermon “Life Shines in Darkness” (John 1:1-14)**

### **Offering/Attendance**

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

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



*Stand*

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

## **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

### **Preface LSB 208**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **Proper Preface LSB 208**

- P It is 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal

nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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 208***

- C    Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209***

- P    Blessed are You, 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 209***

- C    Our Father who art in heaven,  
         hallowed be Thy name,  
         Thy kingdom come,  
         Thy will be done on earth  
             as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
         as we forgive those  
             who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
         but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
         and the power and the glory  
         forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209***



- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Pax Domini LSB 210**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei LSB 210**

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### **Distribution**

#### **We celebrate the Lord's Supper**

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup* (1 Cor. 11:28). Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins?* (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?* (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?)* (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit?* (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-

29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE**—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

### **Distribution Hymns**

**-578 Thy Strong Word**

**-411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

*Stand*

### **Nunc Dimittis LSB 211**

C    1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
        Depart in heav'nly peace,  
        For I have seen the glory  
        Of Your redeeming grace:  
        A light to lead the Gentiles  
        Unto Your holy hill,  
        The glory of Your people,  
        Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,  
    All glory to the Son,  
    All glory to the Spirit,  
    Forever Three in One;  
    For as in the beginning,  
    Is now, shall ever be,  
    God's triune name resounding  
    Through all eternity.

### **Post-Communion Collect LSB 212**

P    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 212

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

## Closing Hymn 861 Christ Be My Leader (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



## Altar Flowers given by Dawn Jantz In Memory of her husband Bob's Birthday

### WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* Tom Janes (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength); Jim & Kari (healing and strength); Greg Voss (healing & strength); Curt Bayer (cancer) former member of Grace; Sindy Schmidt (healing); Gary Forsythe (dementia); Dominic (recovery from a stroke); Brittany (cancer); Greg (cancer); Judy (poor eyesight); Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); Linda (brain cancer); Bryan (cancer); Jenny Rice (cancer); Dale (cancer); 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; 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); Geri (healing & strength from Covid) mother of Pam Novak; Richard (hospitalized with spinal infection) Coworker of Chris Cotter; Joy Lussier (healing & strength following surgery); Tina Drapp (breast cancer); Helen Penn (brain aneurysm) mother of John Penn.

*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 families of **Fred Sedlacek, brother-in-law of Sharon Iseli, & Sandy Stellhorn, a friend of the Taggatz family**, who were recently called home to heavenly rest. **We pray:** *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with **Fred & Sandy's families** as they mourn the death of their loved ones that, casting every care upon You, they may know the consolation of Your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

**All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](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>Elders</u>	<u>Thursday 1/16 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/19 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/19 10:30am</u>
<u>Readers</u>	Mark Olen	Adam Voss	Richard Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Cris Evers	Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Linens</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Matthew Scherer	Andrea Szefflinski
	Lance Kopperud		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).

### Blessings for Baby -A Place of Refuge

Blessings for Baby items will be collected starting Jan 19. **List of items needed:** *Baby wipes, Coloring Books, Bibs, Infant socks, sleepers, headbands, wash clothes, toys, Baby Powder*

### February 23rd-New Member Potluck

On Sunday February 23rd, following our 10:30am worship service, we will be having a New Member Potluck

in our School Gymnasium. We have a sign-up sheet in the Church Narthex requesting our members to bring a main entrée, side dish, and/or desserts for this event. Please plan on coming to our New Member Potluck to get a chance to meet and get to know our new members at Grace! Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the New Member Potluck on Sunday February 23rd as a kickoff to this fundraiser and thank you for helping out those in need!!!

### **Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive**

The Evangelism Board along with the Hunger Task Force is holding their Annual Fund Drive starting February 23rd. The best way to support the Hunger Task Force is to make a monetary donation. The Hunger Task Force will then purchase the food to be distributed to those in need. There are envelopes on the table in the back of church to put your donations. The envelopes then can be placed in the offering plate. Checks should be made out to: Grace Lutheran Church. Please write Hunger Task Force in the memo section of your check. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Grace Evangelism Board. Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the New Member Potluck on Sunday February 23rd as a kickoff to this fundraiser and thank you for helping out those in need!!!

**On January 25 and 26, the Martin Luther Drama Department proudly presents: A Family Reunion to Die For.** The Knotting family is having a reunion, and Christine Franklin uses it as the perfect opportunity to introduce her new husband to her extended family. The western themed bed and breakfast, owned by Christine's aunt, seems the perfect setting for the reunion, until torrential rains trap the guests inside with a murderer. Christine's husband Freddie, a mall cop with grandiose dreams of being a detective, is hot on the trail, but he needs a little help from the dead and the audience. Will you be up to the challenge? **Join us on Saturday night for dinner and a show.** Dinner will be provided by Texas Road House and cooked by Martin Luther's own Culinary Careers class. There will also be packages sold to upgrade your fun, including themed drink cups and signature mocktails. Cost for dinner and the show is \$25. No general admission will be sold, and tickets must be purchased ahead of time. None will be sold at the door. **If you have food allergies, please contact Lisa Kamprath – [lkamprath@martinlutherhs.org](mailto:lkamprath@martinlutherhs.org)**

On Sunday, join us for the Theater Tea, complete with a variety of scrumptious desserts. Dessert and a show is \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance. **If you have food allergies, please contact Lisa Kamprath – [lkamprath@martinlutherhs.org](mailto:lkamprath@martinlutherhs.org)** General Admission tickets to this show are available.

**Here are the links to the Theater events.**

**Dinner Theater: <https://tinyurl.com/2pyndcyu>**

**Theater Tea: <https://tinyurl.com/35vab79j>**

**You're Invited to *Spartan Connections at Martin Luther High School!* Join us for Spartan Connections, an event showcasing the amazing stories happening at Martin Luther High School and sharing their vision for the future. Event Details: Date: Wednesday, January 29th**

**Time:** 8:30 am – 10:15 am

**Location:** Martin Luther High School

**Program Highlights:**

Enjoy a light breakfast

Participate in a school tour

Hear inspiring presentations from students, faculty, and leadership

This event is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the impactful ministry at Martin Luther High School. It's especially informative for prospective ML parents and anyone interested in the school's mission and vision. Please feel free to invite others and join us for this inspiring morning! If you have any questions, contact Martin Luther High School directly. We hope to see you there!

**To register for this event, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/cb4h367>**

**Cancellation of Financial Peace University Class** We regret to inform you that the *Financial Peace University Class*, originally planned to be led by Lisa Kamprath on Sunday evenings at the school building, has been cancelled due to a lack of sign-ups. Thank you for your understanding. We are hopeful to reschedule this class at a later date and will provide details when a new time is set. If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**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.

**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 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>** You may also scan the A paper registration form is also available in the narthex.

**The Board of Stewardship Presents the 2025 Chili Fundraiser**

Order now through February 6<sup>th</sup>. Chili orders can be dropped off at church services or at the school office between 8 am - 3 pm. Orders can also be placed by calling the school office at 414-762-3655. Proceeds will be used to purchase blinds for the gym/lunch room windows at the school campus. *Orders can be picked up after January 11th.*

**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—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.

“No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is



the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever.” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – 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 "He Made Me a Believer"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God makes us believers and the more we believe, the more we become involved in the institutions God made--*church, marriage, family, and work*. (John 2:11) 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

### **New Grief Share Group starting in February 2025 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? Near the end of February we are starting a special seminar 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 will meet on Monday evenings starting February 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will take off April 21<sup>st</sup> for Easter Monday. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. 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 or to register: go to the website: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

## **IN THE WORD FOR SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY**

**Catechism:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism: How can water do such great things?

**Verse of the week:** Galatians 3:26-27, “*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*”

**Psalms of the week:** Psalm 66

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 402 “The Only Son from Heaven” (stanzas 1-2)

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11

Monday— King Hezekiah Receives Envoys from Babylon—2 Kings 20:12-21

Tuesday— King Manasseh of Judah—2 Chronicles 33:1-20

Wednesday— King Josiah of Judah—2 Chronicles 34:1-28

Thursday— Jeremiah the Priest Is Called to Be a Prophet—Jeremiah 1:1-19

Friday— St Timothy, Pastor—Acts 16:1-5

Saturday— Conversion of St Paul—Acts 9:1-22

### **THE DEEDS OF YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP GIVE EVIDENCE TO YOUR FAITH.**

“Show me your faith apart from your works,  
and I will show you my faith by my works”  
(James 2:18).



### **Stewardship Minute**

The new year brings with it new resolve, but so often that resolve fades before the first week has ended. The apostle Paul advised the Corinthians, *“Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means”* (2 Corinthians 8:10, 11 NIV). By ourselves, we grow tired or get bored or just plain lazy. Let us ask the Lord to give us the desire to give generously, to serve joyfully, and to expend our time eagerly in response to what God has given to us and done for us.

**Growing in Grace – January 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3645.25</i>		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1208.15</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	<b><i>Total Attendance</i></b>	<i>38/78</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>	<b><i>Total Communed</i></b>	<i>88</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$380.00</i>		
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$5373.40</i></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	1/19	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 1:30-5:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship New Members Class
Monday	1/20	6:30pm	Grief Share & 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/21	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/22	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/23	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/24	-----	-----
Saturday	1/25	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	1/26	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship

**SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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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 ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
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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>
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ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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