

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

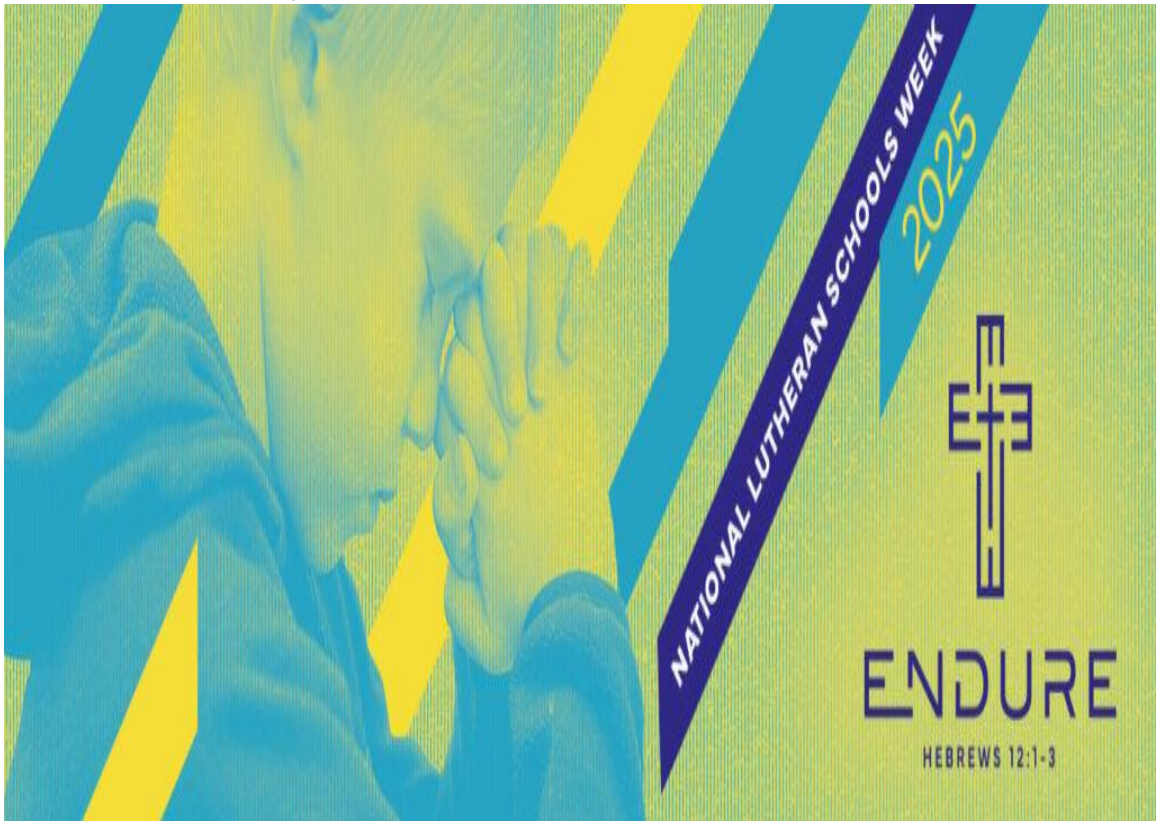
Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

## National Lutheran Schools Week

January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*



**Image:** *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

**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 "*Endure*"**

National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools, and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike. The theme for this school year is "*Endure*," based on Hebrews 12:1-3. As we navigate the various challenges and triumphs of our faith journey, we are reminded of the steadfast love and enduring presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, who encourages us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

### **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 861 Christ Be My Leader (vs. 1-3, Thursday Night & Sunday 8am only)

Grace Lutheran School Choir—"We Believe" (Sunday only)

(Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song)

*Stand*

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

### Opening Sentences

P Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely.

C Let us look to Jesus, who endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:1-2, adapted*

### Confession & Absolution

*(Silence for reflection on the Word of God and self-examination. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

P By faith Abraham, when tested, was willing to offer up Isaac because he believed God would raise him from the dead. *Hebrews 11:17-19, adapted*

C We confess that we have avoided many circumstances which might cause us hurt or sorrow, preferring easier roads and quieter paths. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

P By faith Moses chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoying the treasures of Egypt and the pleasures of sin. *Hebrew 11:24-25, adapted*

C We confess that we have put higher value on worldly wealth, easy living, and the approval of our friends than we have on standing with our Savior. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

P By faith people throughout the centuries have endured injustice, oppression, imprisonment, and death rather than renouncing their Lord. *Hebrews 11:32ff.*

C We confess that we have preferred to turn blind eyes as our brothers and sisters in the faith have stood up for their Lord, deciding to watch silently from the sidelines. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our faith.

P Look to Jesus! For us and our salvation He endured the cross, rose victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 12:2, adapted*  
For His sake our heavenly Father has had mercy on us. Through Word and Sacrament the Holy Spirit has worked faith in our hearts that we may look to Jesus in every time of trial. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 55:1, 12-14, 16; antiphon: Psalm 55:22, spoken responsively*)

C Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee;  
He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.

P Give ear to my prayer, O God,  
and hide not Yourself from my plea for mercy!  
For it is not an enemy who taunts me---then I could bear it;  
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me---then I could hide from him.  
But it is you, a man, my equal,  
my companion, my familiar friend.  
We used to take sweet counsel together;  
within God's house we walked in the throng.  
But I call to God,  
and the LORD will save me.

C Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee;  
He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.

P 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.

C Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee;  
He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

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

Lord God, our heav'nly King.

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

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

#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father and Lord of all,

C **opposition and conflict are everywhere.**

P Through Your Word and the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us,

C **open our eyes to follow Jesus and open our ears to listen to His Word of forgiveness and grace;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

#### Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 23:16-29*

*(The Lord rails against those who are listening to false prophets, who do not speak His Word of warning.)*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'" <sup>18</sup>For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? <sup>19</sup>Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it

will burst upon the head of the wicked. <sup>20</sup>The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. <sup>21</sup>"I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup>But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

<sup>23</sup>"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? <sup>24</sup>Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' <sup>26</sup>How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, <sup>27</sup>who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual (Psalm 34:9, 19, alt., read responsively)**

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*

**for those who fear him lack | nothing!**

Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*

**but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.**

**Epistle Lesson Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3**

**(People of faith throughout history point us to Jesus, who endured the cross and was victorious.)**

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup>choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup>He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies...

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse LSB 205**

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

**Verse for National Lutheran Schools Week Jeremiah 23:29a, 28b**

P Alleluia. Is not My word like fire, declares the LORD?

C What has straw in common with wheat? Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel Luke 12:49-56**

*(Jesus explains that His coming brings divisions, even within families.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>49</sup>[Jesus said:] “I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup>For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup>They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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 T everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children's Message "Focus on the Finish Line" (Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3)**

*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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)**

**Sermon "Endure" (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

**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.**
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### **Sanctus *LSB 208***

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

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209***

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### **Lord's Prayer *LSB 209***

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

## The Words of Our Lord LSB 209

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

## Pax Domini LSB 209

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

## Agnus Dei LSB 210

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

Sit

## Distribution

### We celebrate the Lord's Supper

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

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

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception

of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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

#### Distribution Hymns

-685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

-688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

*Stand*

#### Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

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

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

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

A    Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C    **Amen.**

#### Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A    Let us bless the Lord.

C    **Thanks be to God.**

### **Benediction LSB 212**

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

C    **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)**

#### **Announcements**

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**



**The Altar Flowers are given by Bill & Kathy Szefflinski  
In remembrance of their children, Jake & Lauren Szefflinski**

### **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 (hospice) 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; 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; **Rose Adams** (healing & strength); Annette (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's cousin; **Susan** (liver cancer) co-worker of Chris Cotter; and **Pete** (hospitalized) friend of Marlene Voss.

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

**A Prayer for National Lutheran Schools Week:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, on this National Lutheran Schools week we remember that since You have committed the care and nurture of children to Your people, graciously enlighten those who teach and learn at our *Lutheran Grade School, our Early Childhood Center, and at Martin Luther High School*, that they may know the truth and trust in You all the days of their lives. We pray especially for our many Church workers at Grace: our *ECC Director Rachel Miliacca, our Principal Mr Gettelman, our Music Director Mrs Hengst, and all of our ECC & Christian Day School Teachers at Grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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

**All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](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 1/23 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/26 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/26 10:30am</u>
<u>Readers</u>	Keith Goodle	Richard Jackson	Mike Huber
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Glenn Dotson	Edward Taggatz
<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	
	Lance Kopperud	Craig Lau	Andrea Szefflinski
		Camryn Lau	Tommy Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

**Welcome to our new members Steven Pawlak & Kyle and Danielle Kadlec & family!!!**  
**We are so happy that you have joined our congregation at Grace!!!**

**Your 2024 Grace Lutheran Giving Statements are available to pick up in the Narthex.** Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace this past year. We couldn't do the work of ministry at our Church, School, and ECC without your prayers and support. God bless you!!!

### **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.

### **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>**

### **Honor Band Concert**

**Presented by Milwaukee Lutheran, Martin Luther, Lake Country Luthern and Trinity Lutheran Classical High Schools - January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Milwaukee Lutheran High School**

**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 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 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!!!

**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.

**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.

"Babies are born into the world wrapped in surprising packaging like disabilities or poverty, but even so, God has a perfect plan for each one of them. Abortion is a tragic end to the countless blessings in store for those who would have surrounded these children." Brad Mattes, Life Issues Institute – 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 "An Overture to the Greatest Story Ever Told"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez. Like an overture that introduces a great musical work, John the Baptizer is the living voice sent by God to bear witness to Jesus' lordship and salvation. (John 3:26-36) 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

**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

### **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 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

**Catechism**: Catechism—Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What does such baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?

**Verse of the week**: James 5:16, “*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*”

**Psalms of the week**: Psalm 97

**Hymn of the week**: LSB 412 “The People That in Darkness Sat” (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings for the Week**:

Sunday— Healing the Centurion’s Servant—Matthew 8:1-13

Monday— St Titus, Pastor and Confessor—Acts 20:28-35

Tuesday— King Josiah Restores the Worship—2 Chronicles 34:29-33

Wednesday— King Josiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 35:1-27

Thursday— Jeremiah Is Put into Prison—Jeremiah 37:1-21

Friday— Jeremiah Is Thrown into a Cistern—Jeremiah 38:1-28

Saturday— The Fall of Jerusalem—2 Kings 25:1-21

**AS GOD’S PEOPLE, WE ARE STENGTHENED FOR  
STEWARDSHIP THROUGH  
WORD AND SACRAMENT.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you” (John 15:16).



### Stewardship Minute

Along with the psalmist, we need to ask, “*What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?*” (Psalm 116:12). Our response to God’s goodness is determined by how grateful we are. If we are only slightly grateful, we express our thanks in token service and offerings. If we are very grateful, we will “*lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD*” (Psalm 116:13) and serve Him always and give generously. May God grant all of us hearts filled with gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us.

## Growing in Grace – January 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1205.00</i>		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$280.95</i>		
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>30/48</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>	<i>64</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$1492.95</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	1/26	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship – Students Sing at Church
Monday	1/27	6:30pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/28	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/29	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/30	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/31	-----	-----
Saturday	2/1	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	2/2	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 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>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		<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

