

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** "Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."  
(Luke 5:10b–11)

## 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 “*Jesus Nets a Sinner*”**

Today we hear of Isaiah, who calls himself “*a man of unclean lips.*” We read as Paul asks the rhetorical question, “*What am I to do?*” And we identify with Peter, who confesses, “*I am a sinful man, O Lord.*” In short, we recognize that these people are just like us! But like all three, we have already been caught by our gracious God. Isaiah was called to write for God, Paul's pen brought the Gospel to the early church, and Peter led the disciples in spite of himself. With them, we have been caught in the “*net,*” the good news of God's love and forgiveness. Today our worship is designed to move us outward, to fish for people who feel unclean, don't know what to do, and are leaderless; people who have not yet realized God's gracious love. Ready to go fishing?

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

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

## Order of Service...Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 71:15-18; antiphon: v. 12, read responsively*)

O God, be not | far from me;\*

**O my God, make haste to | help me!**

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*

**for their number is past my | knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come;\*

I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.  
O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.  
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to come.

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

O God, be not | far from me;\*  
O my God, make haste to | help me!

### 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** *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through 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** *Isaiah 6:1-8*

*(God calls Isaiah to be a prophet.)*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** (*Psalms 117:1-2a; 96:8, read responsively*)

Praise the LORD, all | nations!\*

**Extol him, all | peoples!**

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,\*

**and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;\*  
bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

## Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

*(Our words must not be for ourselves alone, but for the building up of the church.)*

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. <sup>14</sup>For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup>Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup>For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup>I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

<sup>20</sup>Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

- 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.

**Alleluia Verse for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany—***“Alleluia. Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men. Alleluia.” (Luke 5:10b)*

## Holy Gospel Luke 5:1-11

*(Jesus calls Peter to fish for men.)*

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

<sup>1</sup>On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup>and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup>And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out

into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup>And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup>And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup>They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” <sup>11</sup>And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

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 “Jesus Likes to Go Fishing!” (Luke 5:1-11)** *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 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling (vs. 1-4)**

## Sermon “The God of Surprises” (Luke 5:1-11)

### 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

-628 Your Table I Approach

-940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

*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 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (vs. 1-4)

#### Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



## Altar Flowers are given by Tony and Suzie Mirenda In Honor of Tony's Birthday on February 11<sup>th</sup>

### 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); 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); Alyssa (healing & strength); Lori Jablonski (cancer) and Jessie Marshall (healing & strength) friend of Cathy Weeks; Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); 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); 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; Pete (hospitalized) friend of Marlene Voss; Rita Dueno family; Tony Mirenda (healing & strength.)

*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 Curt Bayer, Myrtle Klemp, a friend of the Taggatz family, Mike Zanardi, Floyd Leonard, and Geri, the mother of Pam Novak, who were recently called home to heavenly rest. We pray: *Almighty God, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, deal graciously with Curt, Myrtle, Mike & Geri, and Floyd's families as they mourn their deaths 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>Thursday 2/6 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 2/9 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/9 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Mark Olen	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Kathy Szefflinski	Kathy Szefflinski
	Morgan Parker	Morgan Parker	Morgan Parker
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Samara Svicek	Alyssa Norton	Ethan Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Nick Norton	Ron Savarino
	Connie Roettgen	Benjamin Tindall	Lowell Johnson
			Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

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

***Grace Ladies Guild - Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am-11:30am at Grace School***  
*We will be having a general business meeting and coloring more cards for Phil's Friends*

**SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING on Sunday, February 9th, after our 10:30am service** to approve the use of funds from our memorial accounts to pay for the varnishing and painting of the Church Sanctuary, Chancel area, Narthex, and refinishing of the pews. While we will be receiving funding to help cover the costs of this project, we need Voters' approval to cover the expenses until we receive the funds from our donor.

## **Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed – June 2025**

We are looking for **volunteers** to help with **Vacation Bible School (VBS) in June 2025!** We hope to hold VBS at **Grace Lutheran during the second or third week of June**, and we're excited to have **Mrs. Amy Pankow** as our **VBS Director** for this event. Our plan is to offer a **week-long VBS** for children **Preschool through Elementary School**, and we need your help to make it a success! Volunteers are needed for:

- **Leading Bible Study** with the children
- **Helping with arts and crafts**
- **Leading the openings and closings**
- **Organizing and running games**
- **Serving as VBS crew leaders to guide children from station to station**

If you are interested in **helping out with this year's VBS**, please contact **Amy Pankow** at [apankow@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:apankow@graceoakcreek.org). Thank you for considering being part of this wonderful ministry for our children. We appreciate your support and prayers as we prepare for VBS 2025!

**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.* **We will continue collecting baby items through Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## **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!!!

**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!!!

**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.

"We may not be trained healers, but we have been trained through our own experiences and God's Word to bring comfort. Be brave, reach out, and know the Lord is by your side. Pray for His guidance in what you say and do so you will bring needed comfort. We have a message of hope!" *Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – 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 "We Have an Advocate"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Where we might see only a problem, Jesus sees a person who needs an Advocate. (John 5:6) 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 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

WGN 720 AM Chicago, IL Sun 6:30am

**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: [mevorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mevorch@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 THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Catechism:** Confession and the Office of the Keys: What is Confession? What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written? What do you believe according to these words?

**Verse of the week:** Jeremiah 31:34b "They all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," says the LORD. "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 45

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 810 "O God of God, O Light of Light" (stanzas 1-3)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9

Monday— Daniel Interprets King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream—Daniel 2:24-49

Tuesday— The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace—Daniel 3:1-28

Wednesday— The Humbling of Nebuchadnezzar—Daniel 4:1-37

Thursday— King Belshazzar and the Handwriting on the Wall—Daniel 5:1-30

Friday— Daniel and the Lions' Den—Daniel 6:1-23

Saturday— Exodus 17:1-7

**TO GIVE GENEROUSLY, WE  
PLACE OUR TRUST IN THE  
LORD.**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own  
understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).



## Stewardship Minute

Scripture is full of instances where God has used ordinary people like us to accomplish extraordinary things. He chose a stammering Moses to lead His people out of bondage, self-serving fishermen, James and John, to lead His Church and spread the Gospel, impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build His Church, and Paul, who spoke of a thorn in his flesh, to be the first great missionary of the Christian Church. God uses imperfect people, those whom the world considers weak and flawed, to extend His kingdom. When we allow ourselves to be used by God in whatever way He chooses, He takes our meager talents and blesses them.

## Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025



### *“Good News from the Beginning: The Gospel in Genesis”*

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon the Gospel, as it's so richly proclaimed to us from the Book of Genesis. Please note: **ASH WEDNESDAY** will be on Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Thursday evening service that week. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion.

1. **March 5th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion, no Thursday Service this week)**  
*Ash Wednesday: The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin, Genesis 3:1–13, 21*
2. **March 13th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Lenten Midweek 2: The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil, Genesis 3:14–15*
3. **March 20th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Lenten Midweek 3: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning, Genesis 6*
4. **March 27th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Lenten Midweek 4: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Himself in Our Place, Genesis 22:1–18*
5. **April 3rd, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Lenten Midweek 5: The Good News of a Savior Who Unites Heaven and Earth, Genesis 28:10–22*
6. **April 10th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Lenten Midweek 6: The Good News of a Savior Who Brings Good from Evil, Genesis 50:15–21*
7. **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**  
*Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5*
8. **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**  
*Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30*
9. **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**  
*Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5*
10. **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**  
*Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18*
11. **April 20th, 2025, 8:30am & 10am (with communion)**  
*Easter Sunday Festival Service: “Easter Guarantees...” Psalm 16*

## Growing in Grace – January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 2<sup>nd</sup>

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$13,481.00</i>		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$940.49</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$66.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>30/60</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1183.00</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>	<i>90</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,670.49</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	2/9	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	2/10	6:30pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	2/11	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	2/12	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Church Council Meeting
Thursday	2/13	6:30pm	Divine Worship Valentine's Coffee & Treats after Worship
Friday	2/14	-----	Happy Valentine's Day!
Saturday	2/15	-----	-----
Sunday	2/16	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship Valentine's Coffee & Treats after 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

