

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 13th & 16th, 2025

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



Image: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

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 “*Planted by the Grace of God*”

Blessing abound in today's readings! Jeremiah laments the one who “trusts in man,” but sees the one who “trusts in the Lord,” to be like a tree planted with abundant water that “does not cease to bear fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5, 7, 8). Note that we are “planted,”—a passive verb, grace! Luke records another time Jesus preached using beatitudes. He concluded that we, his hearers, should rejoice and leap for joy, for our reward is great in heaven. Such grace! No wonder that Paul, in the Epistle, warns against those who doubt Christ's resurrection. Our Lord is only “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). Today our worship is full of rejoicing in the grace of God. It also gives us strength to produce fruit every day.

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 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone (vs. 1-3)

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 119:1-2, 4-5; antiphon: v. 7, read responsively)

I will praise you with an | upright heart,*
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.

Blessèd are those whose way is | blameless,*
who walk in the law | of the LORD!

Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*

who seek him with their | whole heart.
You have commanded your | precepts*
to be kept dil- | igently.
Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
in keeping your | statutes!

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.

I will praise you with an | upright heart,*
when I learn your just and righ- | teous decrees.

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, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 *Jeremiah 17:5-8*

(The one who trusts in the Lord is firmly planted.)

⁵Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Psalm 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 15:1-20*

(Stand firm in what we believe in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the bodily resurrection of the dead)

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

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 6th Sunday after Epiphany—*"Alleluia. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia."* (Luke 6:23a)

Holy Gospel Luke 6:17-26

(Jesus preaches both blessings and curses.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. ²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

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

Sermon Hymn 580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace (vs. 1-4)

Sermon

Thursday Night—Pastor Jim Klug

Sunday—Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador (South WI District, LC-MS, Executive Director of Stewardship, Human Care, and Missions) “An Eternal Hope” (1 Corinthians 15:1-20)

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. 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

-732 All Depends on Our Possessing

-789 Praise and Thanksgiving

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. 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.

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 394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Altar Flowers are given by Sue Paradise

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother; Myles King (blood disorder); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; Jim & Kari (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; Greg Voss (healing & strength); Cindy Schmidt (healing); Gary Forsythe (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; Brittany (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; Greg (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; Judy (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); Linda (brain cancer) friend of Carol Thurber; Jenny Rice (cancer); Dale (cancer) friend of Rick & Cathy Weeks; Scott (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); 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; Don Adams (cancer) relative of Pauline Parker; Linda Stecker's Son in Law (battling brain cancer); Brennan (healing & strength) friend of Greg & Gail Nowakowski; Charlotte Klipfel (healing & strength); 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); 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 **Mike Zanardi, Floyd Leonard and William Chicos**, 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 Mike, Floyd and William'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. **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 2/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 2/13 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/13 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Craig Lau
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glen Dotson	Beth Jackson
<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	Matthew Scherer	Ethan Concepcion
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Benjamin Tindall	Ron Savarino
	Connie Roettgen		Lowell Johnson
			Tatiana Concepcion
<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!!!

We thank Pastor Jim Klug & Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, from the South WI District, for filling in for Pastor Taggatz while he and his family are on vacation for his Grandma Eleanor Taggatz's 98th birthday!!! May God continue to richly bless Pastor Klug and Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador and their ministry to God's people!

Grace Lutheran Church Stewardship Board in Oak Creek is excited to host the *Philippians Conference with Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador*, from the South WI District, and we would love for you to join us for this special event. This conference will focus on **stewardship as a whole-life response to the Gospel**, equipping church leaders with biblical insights and practical applications to strengthen their ministry and mission. Dr. Meador brings a wealth of experience in Lutheran stewardship and leadership training, making this an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth and encouragement. Please let us know if you will be attending by signing the sign up sheet located in the narthex or contacting our church office at: 414-762-8990 or church@graceoakcreek.org. We look forward to growing together in faith and service. **Please let us know if you plan on attending by no later than Thursday March 6th. See the flyer in the narthex for further details and how to sign up.**

Here are the details:



Date: Saturday March 15th



Location: Grace Lutheran School 8537 S Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI 53154



Time: 8:30am-2pm (Lunch Included)

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 week in June (the 9th-13th)**, 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. 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 at Grace!!!

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 16th.**

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 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. Choir is starting up again on Thursday February 20th!!!

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* Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "The Bread of Our Lives" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts. (John 6:35). The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: 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

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 17th from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday May 19th. We will take off April 21st 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 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 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Catechism: Catechism—Sacrament of the Altar: What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?

Verse of the week: 1 Corinthians 10:4, *"All drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 18

Hymn of the week: LSB 566 "By Grace I'm Saved" (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard—Matthew 20:1-16

Monday— Daniel's Dream of the Four Beasts—Daniel 7:1-28

Tuesday— Daniel's Prayer—Daniel 9:1-6, 17-27

Wednesday— Daniel's Vision of a Man—Daniel 10:1– 11:4 (12:1-13)

Thursday— The Proclamation of Cyrus the King of Persia—2 Chron. 36:22-23

Friday— The End of the Babylonian Captivity—Ezra 1:1-11

Saturday— Isaiah 55:10-13

Stewardship Minute In 1 John 4:16 we read, *"God is love."* God's love is evident in His giving. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Because of His love, God gave us the gift that we needed the most - our Savior. Out of love and gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us, we strive to live as Christ did. Through our giving, we become like Him. The more we give from hearts filled with love and gratitude, the more we reflect Christ's likeness.

ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND THROUGH-
OUT THE YEAR, WE GIVE TO THOSE
WE LOVE. LOVE PROMPTS US TO GIVE.

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that you love also is genuine" (2 Corinthians 8:8).



Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church Ash Wednesday March 5th – Easter Sunday April 20th, 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 5th 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

Piano Player Wanted: We received a request from Sharon Sherer, whose husband has a singing group in St Francis, that is need of a piano player for their group that meets on Thursday nights at 7pm. This is a paid position. If you are interested, you can contact Sharon at: 414-587-6647.

Growing in Grace – February 6th & 9th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$3409.25		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1872.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$60.00	Total Attendance	35/78
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$10.00	Total Communed	75
Total	\$5351.25		

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	2/16	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship – Pastor Meador Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship – Pastor Meador
Monday	2/17	6:30pm	6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	2/18	7:00am	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	2/19	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Council Meeting
Thursday	2/20	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	2/21	-----	-----
Saturday	2/22	-----	-----
Sunday	2/23	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship New Member Potluck

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) thewordendures.blogspot.com
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		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Church Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

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