

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*



The First Sunday in Lent

March 9th, 2025

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



Image: "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, He was hungry." (Luke 4:1-2)

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 “God’s Truth: Easy and Powerful”

“Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness” (1 Timothy 3:16). As we have now entered the forty-day pilgrimage of Lent, we approach the most climactic event of our Lord's earthly ministry, the one that confused and frightened the first followers of Jesus and perhaps even some to this day. The expectation of the establishment of the kingdom of God with Jesus, the Son of God, seated on a royal throne as ruler was demolished as they witnessed their Rabbi, Master, and Lord taken captive, convicted, tortured, and executed on that Passover in Jerusalem. The cross has always been an offense. To this day, the same mystery stands: *His royal throne is but a frightful cross of crucifixion—His kingdom hidden to the eyes.* When confronted with the facts of God's Word, many cannot see past this mystery. Yet it is the power of God's Word that gives people the gift of faith and new eyes to see what was incomprehensible and secret now revealed by the Spirit of God. God's truth is that in the death of Christ, redemption and forgiveness of sin now avails for the entire world. Sinners are delivered, justified before God by faith in the blood of Jesus shed on the cross and given the ability to repent and believe and become children of God for eternity. For sinful mankind, this life-giving truth is impossible to believe or understand. Only because of the mighty Word of God proclaimed to the world by His church and by the power of the Spirit is that otherwise mysterious Word actually easy and powerful to understand and to believe.

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 1, pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 91:9-13; antiphon: vv. 15-16, read responsively)

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him*

and show him my sal- | vation.

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*

the Most High, who is my | refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*

no plague come | near your tent.
For he will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

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.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

Kyrie LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

During Lent, the Hymn of Praise is omitted

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

- P Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 *Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

(Moses prepares Israel for entrance into the Promised Land.)

¹“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. ⁹And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

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

Gradual (*Hebrews 12:2, read responsively*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 10:8b-13*

(The message of salvation to all)

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse for the 1st Sunday in Lent—*“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11)*

Holy Gospel *Luke 4:1-13*

(The temptation of Jesus)

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

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

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.’”

⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

¹¹and

““On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 158*

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message “My Dad Is Stronger Than Your Dad” (Luke 4:1-13) *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 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Christ is With Us” (Luke 4:1-13)

Offertory LSB 159

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160

- 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 161*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 162

- 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 163

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

Agnus Dei LSB 163

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

-418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

-333 Once He Came in Blessing

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 165

- C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of
ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
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.

Post-Communion Collect LSB 166

- 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.**

Benediction LSB 166

- 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.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 543 What Wondrous Love Is This (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Tom Janes (healing & strength) 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); **Sindy 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** (vision loss) 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); **Georgianne** (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); **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); **Richard** (hospitalized with spinal infection) Coworker of Chris Cotter; **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 & Greg Voss; **Tony Mirenda** (healing & strength); **Skip** (hospitalized) relative of Pauline Parker; **Debbie Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's daughter in law; **Gary & Keith Hayes** (healing & strength) relatives of Taggatz family; **Jan Barrett** (heart surgery & recovery); **Kurt Schmeiser** (healing & strength); **Kim** (recovery from heart surgery) mother of India Adel; **Gloria Kilponen** (recovery from a fall).

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

We mourn with the family of Rita Dueno, Aunt of Steven Pawlak, called to heavenly rest. We pray: O Lord, You are the God of all comfort, and we ask that You surround Rita's family with Your peace and love

during this difficult time. Remind them of the hope we have in Jesus, who conquered death and gives eternal life to all who trust in Him. Amen.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! We thank the Lord that on Sunday March 9th, *Alayna, Cooper, and Addelynn Riffer* are baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God’s Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that their names are written in God’s Book of Life!!!

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>Wednesday 3/5 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/9 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/9 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Richard Jackson	Greg Nowakowski	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Tatiana Concepcion
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	McKenzie Isenhardt
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Eric Kamprath
	Jim Robinson	Camryn Lau	Lisa Kamprath
			Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group is currently doing a fundraiser to raise funds for their trip to the LC-MS National Youth Gathering this Summer in New Orleans, LA. They are currently selling *Carrie’s Rice Crispies* treats. They come in 4 packs and the cost is \$20 per pack. If you would like to order some delicious rice crispy treats and support our youth group for their trip, please see the order form available in the narthex. Thank you for supporting our youth group!!! The deadline for this fundraiser is March 10th.

Saturday, March 29th, 2025 - Game Night at Grace

Our Fellowship Committee will be having a game night at the school gymnasium. You will be able to bring a board game of your choice to share with others or we will supply some games for that night. We will also be having some cribbage boards, or you may like to bring your own, for those who would like to have a quieter game. It will be another night of Fun Fellowship and Food. We ask that you bring a snack to pass and a non-alcoholic drink for you and your family.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex - or you may respond online below:

<https://tinyurl.com/mvbr92e4>

The doors will be open at 6:00pm and the games will start at 6:30pm. It will give you time to set up your games and people will be able to choose which game they would like to participate in. Please print out the rules for your game so we will be able to know how to play. We will continue to play until 8:30pm. We hope to see you there!

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)**, from **9am-12pm each day**, 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!!!

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. **You can also bring a jar of peanut butter to the Church, School, or ECC to help those in need.** **The deadline for Hunger Task force is Sunday March 23rd.**

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.****



Easter Lilies/Flowers To help make our Easter celebration more memorable, Milaeger's is offering a beautiful assortment of plants to celebrate the glorious Easter holiday. 1.) Sign-up for your preferred flower/plant on sheets posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. 2.) Enclose cash or check in the envelopes provided and place in offering basket or hand to an elder. **All money and orders need to be placed by March 17th, 2025.**

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.

Ladies Bible Study Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, "*Patience & Perfection: Finding Peace in God's Plan for You!*" by Daniel Paavola. Join us!!!

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.

"Just as God personally created your body, so too He continually designs His body, the Church, bringing together people from all walks of life, all nations, and all abilities, in service to the world. And while it may be true that the world does not appreciate the gifts you have to offer, the body of Christ most certainly needs you." *Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an 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 "Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Do you want a life that amounts to more than a hill o' beans? Hear how Christ's death and resurrection gives us life with God that can't be measured. (John 12:24) 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 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? We have started 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 meets on Monday evenings 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 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Table of Duties—To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers: 1 Timothy 3:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:6; Titus 1:9

Verse of the week: Isaiah 55:11b, “*[My Word] shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 32

Hymn of the week: LSB 521 “Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11

Monday— Jesus Food Is to Do the Father’s Will—John 4:31-38

Tuesday—The Nobleman’s Son Is Healed—John 4:(43-45) 46-54

Wednesday— Jesus Celebrates the Passover—Luke 22:14-30

Thursday— The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15

Friday— The Jews Seek to Kill Jesus for Breaking the Sabbath—John 5:10-23

Saturday— Genesis 32:22-32

Stewardship Minute Because we are uplifted and sustained by the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful stewards. Without the Holy Spirit, we could not acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of our lives or live our lives as stewards. The Apostle Paul wrote, “...no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3). Because of the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, God gives us faith, so we willingly serve in our homes, churches, neighborhoods, and we serve and give generously to help those in need and expand the kingdom. By our own reason or strength, we cannot be the stewards God wants us to be. Having been reconciled to God through Christ, we are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). We may look the same on the outside, but inside we are different. Just as God initiated that reconciliation, He also chooses us to be His stewards (John 15:16).

**WE BECOME PARTNERS WITH
GOD TO HELP THOSE IN NEED.**

“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).



Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 27th following our 10:30am worship service. At this Voters Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, the treasurer’s report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voters meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated. The election of officers will take place at the Voter’s meeting in June of this year.



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”

1. **March 13th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 2: The Good News of a Savior Who Conquers Evil, Genesis 3:14–15
2. **March 20th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Lenten Midweek 3: The Good News of a Savior Who Gives Us a New Beginning, Genesis 6
3. **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
4. **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
5. **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
6. **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**
Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5
7. **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30
8. **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5
9. **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18
10. **April 20th, 2025, 8:30am & 10am (with communion)**
Easter Sunday Festival Service: “Easter Guarantees...” Psalm 16

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Grace Lutheran Oak Creek Youth Lock-In: March 14th & 15th

In the spirit of fellowship and fun, I am thrilled to announce an exciting event for our youth! We are planning a **Youth Lock-In** at Grace Lutheran School on **Friday, March 14th**, starting at **6:30 pm**, and concluding on **Saturday, March 15th**, around **6:30 am**. This event is open to **5th grade through High School youth** and promises to be a night filled with laughter, learning, and connection. We are blessed to have Concordia University Wisconsin's Youth Ministry Team leading this event. They will bring high-energy games, authentic relationship-building activities, and meaningful devotions centered on God's Word.

What to Bring: Snacks, a pillow, sleeping bag, and comfortable sleeping mat, a bible, a spirit of fun and fellowship
Event Highlights: Dinner (Friday evening), Snacks throughout the night, Devotions centered on God's Word, Active and engaging games, Breakfast in the morning (pending volunteer availability)

Your Help is Needed! To ensure a safe and enjoyable event, we are looking for **parent or adult chaperones** to assist during the lock-in. If you are able to help, please email me at pastor@graceoakcreek.org. Your participation is vital to the success of this event and greatly appreciated! **RSVP & Volunteer** Please let us know if your child will attend by replying promptly. Each child may bring **one friend**, but we ask that attendance be confirmed early as we need sufficient adult supervision to proceed with the event. Your support and timely response will help us create a memorable experience for our youth, filled with fellowship, fun, and growth in God's Word. Thank you for your enthusiasm and partnership in making this lock-in a success! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday April 19th at 3pm

DONATIONS NEEDED



This Easter Egg Hunt will be for Preschool through 4th Grade and it will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. We are asking for donations of already filled plastic Easter Eggs for this Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to drop off your donations you can do so at Church or our Grace Lutheran School/Church Office. We are inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!! We will need our Junior and Senior High Youth to help us with putting our Easter Eggs for this event an hour before the event takes place.

New Members Class on Sunday March 30th from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Pastor is planning to have the New Members Class on Sunday March 30th from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need child-care. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

“Servant of the Lord”

In Jesus Christ, God Himself enters our human condition. In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus as God’s Son and our Redeemer. He has made the Heavenly Father known to us. Proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus served us—lovingly, patiently, compassionately—as He died for our sins and rose three days later in Easter victory. We have in Jesus the supreme example of devoted service. His teachings defined the lives we are to live—both in praise and honor to God and in love and peace toward one another. All this Jesus did as God’s chosen Servant, sent from heaven to earth to be our King, Savior, and trusted Friend. We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/> Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co- worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord’s passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

Growing in Grace – February 27th & March 2nd

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$16924.00</i>		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1302.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$120.00</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$18401.00</i>		

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	3/9	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
Monday	3/10	6:30pm	Grief Share
		6:30pm	6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	3/11	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	3/12	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30pm	All Boards Meeting
		7:30pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	3/13	6:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship
Friday	3/14	6:30pm	Jr/Sr High Lock-In
Saturday	3/15	8:30am	Philippians Conference
Sunday	3/16	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		10:30am	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) 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

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

