

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

## The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



Image: "Stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved." (*Philippians 4:1*)

# 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 “Stand Firm in the Faith”**

How's your faith? Is it firm, steadfast, and strong? Or do you find that it seems to be growing weak, uncertain, or even in danger of disappearing at times? As we follow our Lord in this Lenten season, leading up to the distressing events of Holy Week, we are warned today that the same opposition, rejection, and betrayal faced by prophets like Jeremiah, and even Jesus, will also face us as His followers. What did He mean when He said, *“You will be hated by all for My name's sake”*? (Luke 21:17). But rather than a dire prediction, Jesus said, *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Matthew 5:11-12). When challenges arise and temptations overwhelm, we are reminded to remember and observe examples of faith, such as the apostle Paul in his many struggles and even our Lord Himself whose faith and confidence in His Father's gracious design made Him endure *“the cross, despising the shame”* with the prospect of His certain victory and eternal placement at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). That certainty is ours. Faith hangs on to the promise *“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown”* (Revelation 3:11). Or as Paul says, *“Therefore, my brothers, . . . my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord”* (Philippians 4:1).

### **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 728 How Firm a Foundation (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 74:1-3; antiphon: Psalm 69:9, read responsively)

For zeal for your house has con- | sumed me,\*

**and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fall- | en on me.**

O God, why do you cast us off for- | ever?\*

**Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your | pasture?**

Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your | heritage!\*

**Remember Mount Zion, where | you have dwelt.**

Direct your steps to the perpetual | ruins;\*  
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctu- | ary!

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.

For zeal for your house has con- | sumed me,\*  
and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fall- | en on me.

### **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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 26:8-15*

### *(Jeremiah threatened with death)*

<sup>8</sup>When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

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 Philippians 3:17–4:1*

### *(Our citizenship is in heaven.)*

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

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

*Stand*

**Verse for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**—*“Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 13:35)*

**Holy Gospel Luke 13:31-35**

**(Lament over Jerusalem)**

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

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! <sup>35</sup>Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

- 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 "Heavenly Things Last Forever" (Philippians 3:17-4:1)** *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 673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home (vs. 1-5)**

**Sermon "The Christian Mindset" (Philippians 3:17-4:1)**

**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](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 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**

-730 What Is the World to Me

-666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

*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 825 Rise, Shine, You People (vs. 1-4)**

**Announcements**

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



***The Altar flowers are given by Sharon Russell***

## 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** (healing & strength); **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); **Anthony Bartlein** (heart transplant) father of Dena Guziewicz (our School Secretary).

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

***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 with the 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 3/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/16 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/16 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	McKenzie Isenhardt
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle		Eric Kamprath
	Jim Robinson		Lisa Kamprath
			Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

### **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!

**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 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>), 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](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 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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**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, Milaege'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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

On St. Joseph: "Though Mary's husband did not beget Jesus from his own body, he did father him in the fashion of a foster, adoptive, or step-parent. For this reason, he has received the title of Guardian of Our Lord. His service to God and family not only figures prominently in the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also exemplifies the holy vocation of fatherhood and testifies to the sanctity of marriage, parenting, adoption, and every human life." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an 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 "Light of the World"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Jesus is the Light of the world. However, He sometimes keeps that light out of the visible range. We can't see it, but it changes what we see. (John 8:12) 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

### **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 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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Catechism:** Table of Duties—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors: 1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

**Verse of the week:** Psalm 27:4, *“One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 25

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 708 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” (stanzas 1-3)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Canaanite Woman Cries Out to Jesus—Matthew 15:21-28

Monday— Life and Judgment through the Son—John 5:24-30

Tuesday— The Fourfold Witness—John 5:31-47

Wednesday— Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane—Lk. 22:31-46

Thursday— St Joseph, Guardian of Jesus—Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Friday— The Feeding of the Five Thousand—John 6:1-21

Saturday— Exodus 8:16-24

**Stewardship Minute** By God’s grace, He has created us and calls each of us by name. He loves us and wants His best for us. God wants us to share His love and the blessings that He entrusts to us with others. He gives us our time, talents, and money so we can be His channels through which He works. God blesses us so we can be blessings to families, friends, and communities. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7). We are the recipients of God’s gifts. God is the owner; we are the stewards. We become God’s hands, feet, and mouth to the world. We are blessed to be a blessing.

**BECAUSE WORK IS A GIFT FROM  
GOD, WE SHOULD BE JOYFUL, DO  
GOOD, AND TAKE PLEASURE IN  
OUR TOIL.**

“...everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man” (Ecclesiastes 3:13)





**Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

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

## **Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School**

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

### **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 – March 5<sup>th</sup> & March 9<sup>th</sup>**

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3804.00</i>		
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1947.00</i>		
<i>Debr Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>Attendance Ash Wed.-</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1080.00</i>	<i>Sunday-</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$6836.00</i>	<i>Communed Ash Wed.-</i>	<i>87</i>
		<i>Sunday-</i>	<i>65</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	3/16	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	3/17	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	3/18	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	3/19	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	3/20	6:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship
Friday	3/21	-----	-----
Saturday	3/22	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	3/23	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship

### SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445

Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
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Pastor		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Heidi, Church Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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