

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30th, 2025



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



Image: "For the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation."
(Isaiah 12:2b)

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 “Makes You Want to Sing!”

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem: “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her”* (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet. Today's service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: “*Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth*” (Isaiah 12:5). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. “*Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel*” (Isaiah 12:6). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So, we shall!

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 ✠

Prelude (Martin Luther High Troubadors) “Nothing but the Blood Medley” (Nothing but the Blood/ Give Thanks/ Total Praise)

Opening Hymn 528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution *LSB 203*

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively*)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!
For I know my trans- | gressions,*
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

During Lent the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 12:1-6*

("The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.")

¹You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

- 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 *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

(If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, and the new has come)

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Stand

Verse for the 4th Sunday in Lent *“The father said to his servants, “This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” (Luke 15:22a, 24a)*

Holy Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

(The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

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

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’” ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’” ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’” ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed LSB 206

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

Sermon Hymn 941 We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "The Joy of Our New Life in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:16-21)

Offertory (Martin Luther High Troubadors) "Goodness of God"

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. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. 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 (Martin Luther High Troubadors)

-“Now Behold the Lamb”

-“Worthy is the Lamb”

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

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

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

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 212*

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

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 212*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C Amen.

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

Postlude (Martin Luther High Troubadors) "Alpha and Omega" & "That's My King"

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. 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); Scott (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); Lori Jablonski (vision loss); Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); Cheryl (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; Carol Long (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; 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, hospitalized) relative of Pauline Parker; Linda Stecker's Son in Law (battling brain cancer); Charlotte Klipfel (healing & strength); Gayle Stephen (pancreatic cancer) cousin of Suzie Miranda; 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); Rose Adams (healing & strength); Annette (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's cousin; Susan (liver cancer) co-worker of Chris Cotter; Pete (healing & strength) friend of Marlene & Greg Voss; Tony Miranda (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); 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); Lee (recovery from surgery) Amy Goodle's father; Scott Benton (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; Rick Weeks (cancer treatment).

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

We mourn with the families of Diane Pielsnik, upon the death of her brother, Thomas Janes & the family of Sharon McCaigue, as they mourn her recent death, sister of Doc Medek, and sister in law of Sharon Bzdawka and Ron & Mary Savarino;. We pray: Heavenly Father, we lift up Diane Pielsnik, Doc Medek, Sharon Bzdawka and Ron and Mary Savarino's families, as they grieve the death of, Thomas James and

Sharon McCaigue. In the midst of their sorrow, bring them Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Comfort them with the promise of the resurrection and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, who has conquered death and given us eternal life. Surround them with Your love, strengthen them in their faith, and remind them that You are always near. In Jesus' name, 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 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 3/27 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/30 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/30 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Adam Voss	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Glenn Dotson	Lisa Kamprath
<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 Isenhart
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Madilyn Hundt	Eric Kamprath
	Jim Robinson	Garrison Hundt	Lisa Kamprath
			Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Glenn Dotson	Glenn Dotson	

Thank You, Martin Luther High School Troubadours!

We are grateful to have the Martin Luther High School Troubadour singing group joining us in worship this morning! We thank God that they are using their musical talents to sing praises to our Triune God—*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. A special thank you to Mr. Andrae Dukes, their Music Director, for bringing them to assist us in worship and song today. God's blessings to all of you!

Annual Grace Lutheran School Dance – "Red Carpet VIP" Hosted by Grace PTLs on Friday, May 2nd, 2025- 5:30 - 8:30 PM @ Oak Creek Community Center 8580 South Howell Ave, Oak Creek, WI 53154 Join us for a glamorous night of fun, food, and dancing! This event is open to the households of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and ECC—so dress your best and dance the night away! **Tickets:** \$10 – "Red Carpet VIP" Admission & \$5 – Children 5 & Under (Ticket price includes entry, pizza, and punch!) **Extras Available for Purchase:** Corsages & Boutonnieres – \$5 each & Bake & Craft Sale Station. Don't miss this special evening of fellowship and fun! For more details or to purchase tickets, contact Grace PTLs.

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* held their Annual Fund Drive. Thank you for your generosity and support for those in need!!!

Lutheran Schools Night, Saturday, April 5—Join us for a night of family fun as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Cincinnati Reds, 6:10 PM. You can share the link below with your families, and they can order tickets online, selecting the sections/seats from the Loge Outfield/Infield Box, Field Infield Box or Terrace Box/Infield. Tickets range from \$17.50-\$67. They can also purchase a parking pass in advance. General Parking is \$16 and Preferred Parking is \$21, in advance. For groups of 10+, please contact Teddy with the Brewers at 414-902-4657. If you are ordering tickets for a group, you can forward tickets via text or email to the individuals Ballpark App. **Purchase deadline March 28th**: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranschools25>

Easter Breakfast is BACK!!!

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 20th from 7-9:00am. We are requesting members to RSVP and sign up for a dish to share. PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Grace Youth Group for their trip to the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Thank you for your support!!!

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.****

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.

"Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability—nor any lack thereof—improves or impairs anyone's worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with." Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – 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 "The Difference Between Anger and Contempt" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God gets angry at sin, but behind that anger, God is love. We believe this only because of Jesus. (John 11:35). 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 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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Table of Duties—Of Civil Government: Romans 13:1-4

Verse of the week: Psalm 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalm of the week: Psalm 132

Hymn of the week: LSB 734 "I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name" (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Feeding of the 5,000—John 6:1-15

Monday— The Promise of the Holy Spirit—John 7:(25-36) 37-52

Tuesday— The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:53—8:12

Wednesday— Peter Denies His Lord—Luke 22:54-62

Thursday— A Man Born Blind Receives His Sight—John 9:1-12

Friday— The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man—John 9:13-34

Saturday— Genesis 22:1-14

Stewardship Minute A theme the Apostle Paul returns to often throughout his letters in the New Testament is that of putting off the old self and putting on the new self. Get rid of those things that are a hindrance to your life in Christ. *"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth...And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which in you were called in one body. And be thankful"* (Colossians 3:2, 15). Focusing on temporal problems, we tend to get bogged down. Setting our minds on things above, however, we cannot but be thankful for all God is and all He has done and continues to do for us in Christ.

**YOU ARE THE STEWARD OF THE
GOOD GIFTS GOD HAS CHOSEN
TO GIVE YOU.**

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).



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. **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
2. **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
3. **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**
Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5
4. **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30
5. **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5
6. **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**
Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18
7. **April 20th, 2025, 8:30am & 10am (with communion)**
Easter Sunday Festival Service: “Easter Guarantees...” Psalm 16

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 – March 20th & March 23rd

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2417.00	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	\$1002.00	
<i>Missions</i>	\$30.00	Attendance Lent Mid.- 36
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$20.00	Attendance Sunday- 79
<i>Luthean Schools</i>	\$20.00	Communed Sunday- 66
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$20.00	
Total:	\$3509.00	

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	3/30	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 1:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship New Member's Class
Monday	3/31	6:30pm 6:30pm	Grief Share 6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	4/1	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Minsitry Meeting
Wednesday	4/2	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study All Boards Meeting
Thursday	4/3	6:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship
Friday	4/4	-----	-----
Saturday	4/5	-----	-----
Sunday	4/6	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) 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

