



# Equipper

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.

April 2025



## ***Pastor's Message***

### ***"Christ's Resurrection Offers Real Hope"***

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23, "20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him."*

Jesus is risen; He is risen indeed! But there's even more good news for those who believe in Him. He clearly says, *"Because I live, you will live also"* (John 14:19). What a statement! In the midst of wars, rumors of wars, fears, violence, and the growing cultural pressures to abandon biblical truth for public acceptance, in the midst of it all, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus call all people to an everlasting life of repentance and faith that the world can never take away. It calls believers to a confident hope that comes from knowing that even death itself has been conquered by the One who created and redeemed us.

Is all that merely wishful thinking or some *"hope against hope"* mentality? No way! In our reading, St. Paul calls Jesus Christ the *"firstfruits"* of those who have fallen asleep. His resurrection is God's down-payment of lasting hope for all who put their trust in Him. That's a truth that will transform your life. It will give you peace in the middle of the storms of life, courage in the chaos, and wisdom in the midst of all of the trials of this world which have been caused by sin and the brokenness of humanity. But, even more, it gives us a hope that endures because it impresses on our hearts and minds the truth that Jesus will have the last say in our lives. The fact that He is our risen, ascended, reigning, and returning Savior provides the ultimate good news and an enduring hope.

When we have hope that is based on the actions of Jesus Christ in our world and in our lives, it gives us the confidence and strength to face our future whatever may come. For many Christians around the world every Easter morning begins with the responsive greeting, *"Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed!"* Those words are more than wishful thinking. Those words are rooted in Christ's victory over death and His promise for our future. You might say that Jesus has the capacity, the tenacity, and the veracity to bring those promises to fruition!

This reminds me of a story about a self-made millionaire named Eugene Land who gave real hope to the lives of 61 students in the sixth-grade class of a school in East Harlem, NY. He was trying to inspire them to stay in school and get an education because an education was the first step for them to get out of poverty and make a life for themselves in this world. The odds were that most of the kids in that class wouldn't even finish high school. But that day Land did something radical. He set aside his prepared speech, looked the students in the eye and promised, *"Stay in school and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you."*

Land had the capacity, tenacity, and veracity to fulfill what he promised. That promise built hope in each student's heart. Can you imagine their surprise? Can you imagine how they talked with their parents that night? Here's a statistic for you: *nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school. Why? Because college was no longer wishful thinking. It was a hope built on a promise from one who could make it happen for them.* (1 <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1990-03-25-mn-244-story.html>)

Today you have something much more important. You have a solid and eternal hope available to you because the very Savior of the world makes you this promise: *"Because I live, you also will live"* (John 14:19). So set your mind anew on His things, on the things above (Colossians 3:1). Political strife, social chaos, sexual confusion, cultural vulgarity, and even libertine emptiness are all symptoms and consequences of sinful humanity's *"wishful"* thinking that life can exist without God. You know better. Life is to be a joyful, abundant exercise of grace through faith in Jesus. This gives you the strength and courage to trust Him and then to follow wherever He leads, to live boldly for the sake of our neighbors, friends, strangers, and even our enemies. Put that hope to work in your life. Put the power of Christ's resurrection and His promise of your future resurrection to work. Christ is risen, and you will be raised too. A blessed Easter to you all later this month!!!

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the work of Your life, death, and resurrection; these are Your actions in history so that all might be saved. May they give all who put their trust in You an abundant life now and the assurance of hope for everlasting life. Amen.*

See you in worship,

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Pastor Taggatz



**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.

# Announcements

## Please Note

### Call the church office at 414.762.8990

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

*For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.*

*Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231*

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

*Heidi, Church Secretary*

*Church office: 414.762.8990*

*Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm*

**REMINDER:** If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your change and dollars in to on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>



When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Steve Gettelman. His email address is: [principal@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org)

### ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: graceoc to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



## ***Easter Breakfast is BACK!!!***

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am-8:30am and 9:30am-9:55am. 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!!!

## ***The Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt will be on 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.

**Better Together Café**  
**will be there to share their incredible beverages for purchase!**

**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!

**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.**

## **Hunger Task Force - Annual Fund Drive**

### **Thank you for your support!!!**

The Evangelism Board along with the *Hunger Task Force* held their Annual Fund Drive. **We raised \$375.00 and 135 pounds of peanut butter** for Hunger Task Force through this fundraiser, thank you for your generosity and support for those in need!!!





## **LWML SWD Leadership Development Workshops**

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-3:00pm**

**St Paul's Lutheran**

**210 S. Ringold St, Janesville, WI**

Registration is available thru the [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org) Website. There is NO cost to attend. Simply bring along your lunch and an open mind to hear how the Lord may be calling you as a leader!

Any questions, contact Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740

### ***April Meeting***

**Saturday, April 12 9am-11am**

**Zone 1 Spring Rally at Grace Lutheran Milwaukee**

3030 W. Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee

**Speaker: Free at Last Ministry-Patrick Batom**

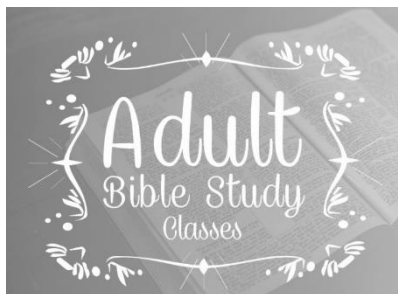
Free at Last ministry assists formerly incarcerated men and women to build a relationship with God by offering Bible study, one on one counseling, fellowship meals and food/clothing.

Gifts from the Heart items:

Toothpaste, backpacks, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion & soap

### ***Ladies Bible Study***

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. 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.



### ***Rise & Sonshine Bible Study***

***Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - 8:00am-9:30am***

***Location: The school library  
All ladies welcome!***



# *Save the Date!*

## *Lutheran Schools Night – Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*

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 28<sup>th</sup>:**

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranschools25>



## *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>)**, 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!!!



# Opportunities at Grace

## **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.

## **Ushers Needed**

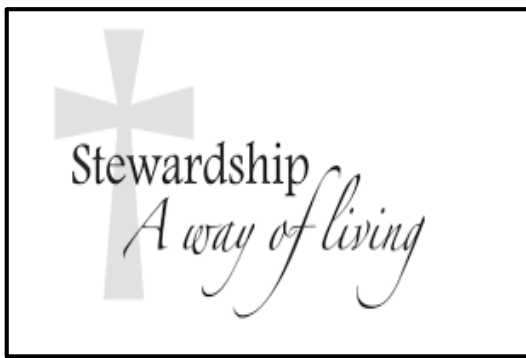
We are in critical need of ushers for both Thursday and Sunday services. If you have thought about being an usher but are concerned about the duties, please don't be. Here are some of the main duties: Arrive 20 minutes before service, Pass out bulletins, Collect offerings, Usher people for communion, Clean up after service

## **Greeting Card Ministry**

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly. *'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.'* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the Church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or [paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com).

## **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? Near the end of February we are starting a special seminar that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group will meet on Monday evenings starting February 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will take off April 21<sup>st</sup> for Easter Monday. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register go to the website: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.



## ***"Having the Right Priorities"***

What are your top priorities in life? To whom or to what do you give the most time and attention? Jesus said, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21). Where we prioritize our time and money will reveal our most important priorities and the condition of our hearts.

By God's grace, we see that the priorities the world promotes contrast with God's priorities. The world's focus is on self-promotion, power, and the accumulation of an abundance of possessions. Success is of utmost importance. The world tells people that happiness and security are found only in having more stuff. The acquisition of things demands a person's time, attention, and money to obtain and maintain.

God's Word does not condemn material wealth, but it does provide a warning that the riches of this world will not provide long-lasting peace, contentment, security, joy, or hope. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus said, *"For what good does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"* (Luke 9:25).

Scripture provides numerous examples of people who had the wrong priorities. An example of having wrong priorities with time is the story of Mary and Martha. In Luke 10:40, we read, *"But Martha was distracted with much serving."* Mary and Martha were hosting Jesus. Martha became so preoccupied with preparing food and serving that she was distracted from the opportunity simply to sit and listen to Jesus' teaching. Mary *"chose the good portion"*; she sat at Jesus' feet to learn from Him. This highlights the importance of prioritizing spiritual growth and connection over mere physical acts of serving.

An example of having a wrong priority with money is the parable of the Rich Fool. The Rich Fool wanted to build bigger barns to store his crops. His goal was to *"eat, drink, be merry"* (Luke 12:19). Jesus called him a fool because he gave no credit to God for his success, nor did he show any interest for the welfare of others. He lived only for himself. In this parable, Jesus said, *"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"* (Luke 12:15).

Jesus directs us to *"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33). We are called to prioritize God's will and purpose above everything else. With the faith that God gives us, we are enabled to distance ourselves from the attitude of the world that glorifies the earthly life and its possessions, and we can trust that God will provide for our needs.

*Blessings on your Stewardship journey!*



# ***Caring for Someone with Alzheimer's Or Dementia***



According to the Alzheimer's Association, dementia covers a wide range of specific medical conditions which cause abnormal brain changes severe enough to interfere with daily life. Thinking abilities as they relate to behavior, feelings, memory and language may all be affected making it challenging for not only the person living with the disease but the people taking care of them. To offer some relief, we've provided five tips as they relate to caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia.

1. **Communicate Effectively** Interacting with someone who has Alzheimer's, or another form of dementia, requires empathy, patience and tactful communication. When holding a conversation, try presenting your loved one with simple questions that involve a "yes" or "no" response. Moreover, anytime your loved one talks, strive to listen to the meaning behind their words. This will help you adjust your response to the level of affection or reassurance they need.
2. **Don't Argue** If your loved one says something that you don't agree with, it's best to let it be. Arguing usually leads to frustration, which makes the situation worse. If they are telling an elaborate story, make your best effort to go along with it. If the person is refusing to do an activity or task, attempt to switch their focus. When all else fails, sometimes it's just best to take a break. Once calm, you can try a different approach.
3. **Develop Routines** Upholding a routine offers structure, familiarity and enjoyment for both the caregiver and the person living with Alzheimer's or dementia. Regular habits can also keep your loved one focused and more productive throughout the day. Caregivers should also try to keep in mind the times of the day that work best for their loved ones to avoid anxiety and agitation.
4. **Don't Take It Personally** When caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia, it can be difficult to separate their true character from the disease. Try to remind yourself that when something troubling is said, this person has a brain disorder. Sometimes it even helps to maintain a respectful sense of humor throughout your caregiving journey. It's okay to make light of tough circumstances.
5. **Take Care of Yourself** It's easy to lose yourself in caregiving. But, abandoning your health, relationships and hobbies do more harm than good when it comes to delivering the best possible care for others. Things like healthy diet, stress management and asking for help are just some of the many ways you can practice self-care. Try to remember that it's not selfish to attend to your needs as a caregiver – it's essential. If you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia, your role is important and demanding. Consider these five tips as you adapt to the changes and trials ahead.

## ***A Prayer for Someone with Alzheimer's***

*Heavenly Father, We come before You with hearts heavy yet full of trust, lifting up our loved one who is battling Alzheimer's. Lord, You are the Creator of our minds and hearts, and nothing is hidden from You—not even the memories that seem to fade from our grasp. Though confusion and forgetfulness may cloud their days, we know that they are never forgotten by You. Father, grant them peace in moments of fear, comfort in times of distress, and the assurance of Your presence when all else feels uncertain.*

*Surround them with love, patience, and understanding from those who care for them. Strengthen their caregivers, family, and friends with endurance and compassion as they walk this journey together. Lord, when words fail and memories slip away, may Your Spirit remind them deep within their soul that they are Yours—precious, loved, and held in the palm of Your hand. Let Your promises be their anchor, and may Your grace sustain them day by day. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, we pray. Amen.*

*Psalm 23 (ESV) 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

***May God's peace and presence be with all who suffer from Alzheimer's and those who care for them.***

***Stephen Ministry is a way congregations can provide high-quality care and outreach to hurting people in the congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are congregation members who have gone through 50 hours of training (and on going training monthly) to provide one-to-one, Christian-centered care. Each Stephen Minister is matched with a hurting person—men are paired with men, and women with women—and meets weekly with that person to listen, care, pray, and encourage. Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, and many other life difficulties.***

***If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, or if you are interested in being a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Taggatz or to one of our Stephen Leaders, Jeanne Meyer or Lori Kachelmeier.***

# Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

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



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

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

**Here is an overview of the series...**Old Testament, Law; New Testament, Gospel. Old covenant, Moses; new covenant, Jesus. Mount Sinai, Ten Commandments, bad news; Mount Calvary, John 3:16, good news. Genesis, the fall into sin; Revelation, heaven. No question where we're heading as we begin the Lenten season—the cross of Jesus Christ on Calvary, that event so detailed in all four Gospels, is the event that secures Good News for the world, that whosoever believes it shall not perish but have eternal life in heaven. There's also no question that the season of Lent is a time to reflect on and repent of our sins, and sin first infected the world in Genesis 3 and is shown to us in stark reality in the thundering of Sinai and the Commandments we fail to keep.

But it's way oversimplifying—in fact, it's wrong—to think that people had to wait all those Old Testament centuries to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his cross. From the very beginning—at least within hours of the first sin—God was also promising the Savior. *Genesis* means “*beginnings*,” and that first book of the Bible tells not only of the beginning, the creation, of the world, but also of the first words of Good News. That's what our sermons during these Lenten midweek services will explore—the Gospel as it's so richly proclaimed in the book of Genesis.

#### **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*

#### **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*

#### **April 17th, 2025, 6:30pm (with communion)**

*Maundy Thursday: “He’s Got Us Covered,” Psalm 32:1–5*

#### **April 18th, 2025, 12pm (no communion)**

*Good Friday Noon Day Service: “A Time to Speak,” John 19:17–30*

#### **April 18th, 2025, 6:30pm (no communion)**

*Good Friday Tenebrae Service: “He Died!” Genesis 5*

#### **April 20th, 2025, 6am (no communion)**

*Easter Sunday Sunrise Service: “Three Days!” John 20:1–18*

#### **April 20th, 2025, 8:30am & 10am (with communion)**

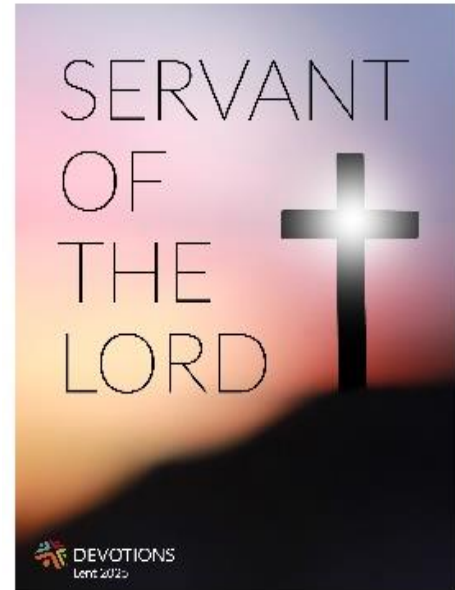
*Easter Sunday Festival Service: “Easter Guarantees...” Psalm 16*

# 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.

**What is Lent?** The season of Lent begins in February or March. The word *lent* has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for “*spring*,” *Lenz*. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin’s death. During the 40 days of Lent, God’s baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: *repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*. Lent is a time in which God’s people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people’s zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

**Customs:** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, “*Alleluia*.” Consider fasting during daylight hours. Spend your regular mealtime in prayer and devotional reading. If you cannot abstain from food for health reasons, abstain from something else (*e.g., television or another leisure activity*). Do not fast on Sundays, which are not part of the 40 days of Lent. Read Bible stories with children each day.



*Grace Lutheran Church,  
School & Early  
Childhood Center  
Oak Creek, WI*



*gracelutheran\_oakcreek*



*We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.*

*Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!*

*We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!*

*LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!*

## **Introducing RaiseRight -- the new name for Scrip** **The same program and process, just a different name.**

**What is RaiseRight?** It's a no-cost fundraiser that helps support the ministries at Grace. We purchase gift cards at a discounted rate and sell them at face value. Each merchant sets their own discount. The discount percentage is on the form.

**How does it work?** You complete an order form to purchase gift cards through a RaiseRight coordinator. Forms are on the table in the Narthex, in the church office or from a RaiseRight Coordinator. Return the completed form and payment to a RaiseRight Coordinator, who will be in the Narthex after each service or to the church office. You receive the face value of the cards you ordered. If the card you ordered is in our stock, you will receive it immediately. Otherwise, we will order the card and you will receive it the following week. The difference between the face amount and the discounted amount is used to support the ministries at Grace for our church, school and ECC.

### **An added benefit to parents of students at Grace School, ECC or Martin Luther High School**

You will receive half of the discounted amount we receive toward the tuition you pay. If you do not have tuition to pay, you can indicate on the form to "Support a Student" and have half of the discount go toward a student who needs help with their tuition. For example: You purchase a \$100 gift card for Woodman's. You pay \$100 and receive a \$100 gift card. We receive a 5 percent discount, so pay \$95 for the card. You will receive \$2.50 toward your tuition. The more cards you purchase, the more tuition credits you receive.

**Help with the process** The RaiseRight coordinators are: Gail Nowakowski, Donna Dotson, Beth Jackson and Marlene Voss. You can call Gail Nowakowski at any time at 414-791-4075 with questions, or talk with one of the coordinators in the Narthex after each service.





May God bless you with an abundance of peace, joy, and love this coming year.

[thinkaboutthings.com](http://thinkaboutthings.com)



4/6 Janice Barrett  
4/6 Mark Lutzke  
4/7 Hannah Pulkownik  
4/7 Kristine Vangalis  
4/12 Beth Stone  
4/13 Phillip Herzog  
4/13 Michelle Rekowski  
4/13 Duane Lussier  
4/16 Brendan Simmons  
4/17 Diane Pielsnik  
4/19 Samantha Dotson  
4/20 Kayleigh Urbaniak

4/21 Andrea Kisley  
4/26 Michael Huber  
4/27 Jane Durant  
4/30 Tracie Mallum

4/1 James and Diane Pielsnik  
4/7 Jim and Clare Sauer  
4/17 Richard and Elizabeth Jackson  
4/19 Eric and Lisa Kamprath

## Giving to Grace Through The Thrivent Choice Program

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.

**Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

**For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:**

<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Divine Worship	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	<b>7</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>8</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>9</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Divine Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9-11:00am LWML Spring Rally Grace Lutheran Milwaukee
<b>13</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	<b>14</b> 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>15</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>16</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>18</b> 12:00pm Good Friday Service 6:30pm Tenebrae Service	<b>19</b> 3:00pm Grace Easter Egg Hunt
<b>20</b> 6:00am Easter Service 7:00am Easter Breakfast 8:30am Easter Service 10:00am Easter Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>23</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Divine Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00am - 9:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
<b>27</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am Voter's Meeting	<b>28</b> Graduation & Confirmation Pictures	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>30</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study			

### Radio Worship Service

"The Lutheran Hour" can be heard anytime on the internet at [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) – scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



### Prayer Hot Line

*In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Tagatz.*

**10AM – 3PM**

*Carol Thurber, 762-9615*

**3PM – 9PM**

*Pauline Parker, 764-5574*

**Internet Prayerline**

*Pauline Parker*

[paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com)

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



#### CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

#### SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

#### WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

**Pastor John M. Tagatz**

**PH: 414.762.8990**

**Thursday Worship 6:30 pm**  
**Sunday Worship 8:00 am and**  
**10:30 am**

