

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

## Easter Sunday Late Service

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

*God's Grace*



**Image:** "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" (*Easter Acclamation*)

# 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 your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

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 “*Easter Guarantees . . .*”**

As consumers and citizens, we long for guarantees. Items purchased are accompanied with contracts and warranties boasting of verbiage that guarantees longevity, functionality, and protection. Political speeches are filled with persuasive arguments and accolades guaranteeing allegiance, prosperity, and freedom. Apart from God's Word, human guarantees are fragile at best. Because of God's Word in Christ, we have abundant, life, joy, and eternal hope. His bleeding wounds—a gouging crown, nail-scarred hands, and speared side—guarantee our forgiveness, grace, and eternal life. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has purchased all of His lost and condemned creatures with blood. This is more than a deceptive warranty; it comes through Jesus, the very Word made flesh, for the redemption and resurrection of the world.

### **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...as outlined in the bulletin

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (LSB 457 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### INVOCATION

Pastor: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

**People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: In the name of the Father—who creates and re-creates new life in the kingdom of resurrection,

**People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: and of ✠ Jesus—who redeems and resurrects new life in the kingdom of resurrection,

**People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit—who sanctifies and breathes new life in the kingdom of resurrection.

**People: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God our Father, and Christ, our risen King!

**People: Resurrected Lord and Savior, we confess before You that our Easter faith is meager; we have not acted decisively in sharing Your love. Our forgiveness for others is tepid. We fail to be gracious in conflict and forget that all believers belong to You—the crucified and risen Lord. Although we are undeserving, You have crowned us with resurrection certainty by Your life-changing grace and mercy. Death is destroyed. Easter life flourishes, now and forever!**

Pastor: Christ has died. We, too, shall die. Christ has risen. We, too, shall rise, because we are more than conquerors in and through Christ Jesus. Our eternal confidence and unwavering faith are in Him alone! Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

**INTROIT** *Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18; antiphon: v. 1b*

**Pastor:** With darkened hearts, through gloomy haze, they faced the morning's growing rays:

**People:** **their Master's body to adorn, not knowing this was Easter morn. The Son of God has conquered night and reigns in everlasting light!**

**Pastor:** The sun began to rise that day; the angel, clad in bright array,

**People:** **was witness to the glorious sight—the Savior has made all things right. The Son of God has conquered night and reigns in everlasting light!**

**Pastor:** The wondrous news now quickly share to ev'ry land, to ev'rywhere;

**People:** **be shining lights for all to see, attesting to His majesty! The Son of God has conquered night and reigns in everlasting light!**

**HYMN** “He’s Risen, He’s Risen” (Sts. 1-2: *LSB 480*)

### **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God of all truth, anchor us firmly in Your Easter Gospel. Let us hear and receive Your abiding words of promise. Embrace us this day and every day with incomparable Easter joy, hope, and life. Ignite within us Spirit-sustained confidence to share the unwavering truth of Your resurrection—an absolute guarantee for all those who believe.

**People:** **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Sit*

**Grace Choir** “You Get the Glory”

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 65:17-25*

*(God re-creates all things new!—the heavens, the earth, Jerusalem, the chosen—upending a sin-broken world, preparing all believers for new life in resurrection.)*

“Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old,

and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** *Psalm 16; antiphon: v. 10, liturgical text*

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

People: Preserve me, | O God,\*  
for in You I take | refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;\*  
I have no good a- | part from You."

As for the saints | in the land,\*  
they are the excellent ones, in whom is all | my delight.

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord  
of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

People: The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;\*  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names | on my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;\*  
You | hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;\*  
indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord  
of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

People: I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;\*  
in the night also my heart in- | structs me.

I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;\*

because He is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.  
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;\*  
my flesh also | dwells secure.

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

**People:**For You will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,\*  
or let Your holy one see cor- | ruption.  
You make known to me the | path of life;\*  
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

**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.**

Pastor: No storm can shake my inmost calm While to that Rock I'm clinging Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing?

**Grace Choir "I Sing Alleluia"**

**EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

***(In the end, the kingdom of God will rule over every power and authority. All believers shall be made alive in Christ.)***

If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**VERSE 2 Timothy 1:10b**

**People: Alleluia.**

Pastor: Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

**People: Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 24:1-12*

*(The Lord is crucified, killed, and buried, but His tomb is found empty! Resurrection triumph prevails. Jesus is alive! Believers are perplexed, amazed, yet confident by faith.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

People: 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*

**HYMN OF THE DAY “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done” (LSB 464 vs. 1-4)**

**SERMON “Easter Guarantees . . .” (Psalm 16)**

**OFFERTORY “Create in Me” (LSB 956 vs. 1)**

### **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**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Lord of all creation made new in resurrection, we give thanks to You that the light of Christ eclipses our sin and that the waters of Baptism keep us buoyant in a sure and certain faith unto life everlasting. We earnestly await the revelation of the new Jerusalem, where we will be resurrected and numbered with all the saints of light and life.



**HYMN “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (St. 1: LSB 673)**

**Pastor:** Dearest Jesus, You are the Lord of hope, life, and joy for all those who have fallen asleep. In You all will be made alive! Resurrection shall be ours, when we are delivered into the kingdom of God the Father. We give thanks that You destroyed the adversaries that seek to marginalize faith and divert us from knowing and confessing the one true God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**HYMN “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (St. 2: LSB 673)**

**Pastor:** Lord of life, together with the eyewitnesses of Your empty tomb, move us from skepticism to bold confidence, from scared silence to convincing emphatic proclamation of the risen Christ. Let us rejoice that we stand in the lineage of the prophets who foretold the risen Savior, the apostles and saints who were Jesus’ companions, and for all of us who eagerly await the final day of resurrection.

**HYMN “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (St. 6: LSB 673)**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**PREFACE 2 *Timothy* 4:22**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is truly right and salutary that we should revel in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in all times and places, giving to You, Father, fervent thanksgiving for making the heavens and the earth renewed by Your grace and mercy. Let the Word of God made flesh continue to resurrect our wearied souls. Breathe the Spirit into us constant newness of life, dispelling grievous burdens and filling us with insight and faith to grasp the reality of resurrection. Join us in the company of the heavenly host and all the heirs of the resurrection—Jews, Gentiles, and all believers—that we may in truth and conviction praise You evermore and say:

## 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

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of the heavens and earth—made new! Your mercy is woven into the very words of Scripture and into the lives of the saints who confess Your holy name, and unrelentingly take hold of the resurrection as temporal and eternal truth. Grant that Your life-giving Word and Spirit invade our minds, our speech, and our hearts, that we may be credible witnesses of divine truth—Jesus alone was crucified, died, and raised to new life. By faith we claim this resurrection as our very own! That resurrection will usher us into eternity that we may share in the marriage feast of the Lamb that will have no ending. To You alone, O Father of all creation, Son of resurrection, and Spirit of joy, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Pastor: 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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People:** 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.

#### PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: 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.

#### 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**

- “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (LSB 461 vs. 1-8)
- “The Lamb” (LSB 547 vs. 1-5)

*Stand*

#### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE 774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy**

- 1 Feed Thy children, God most holy;  
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.  
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,  
Bless the food Thou here hast given!  
As these gifts the body nourish,  
May our souls in graces flourish  
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor  
At Thy feast due thanks we render.

#### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, risen Savior, that You have made all things new through Your resurrection. In this Holy Sacrament Your body and blood nourish us with forgiveness and increase our faith. In this Meal we join all the saints who have prophesied, witnessed, and proclaimed resurrection. Grant that this feast enjoins us to all things new in this time and eternity. Shaped by resurrection hope, joy, and life, grant that we boldly love one another through You, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24-26*

Pastor: 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 ✠ give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Sit*

CLOSING HYMN “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” (Sts. 3-5: *LSB* 490)

## Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



***The flowers on the altar are given by the members of Grace  
Lutheran Church in celebration of Easter.***

## 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) relative of Pauline Parker; Linda Stecker’s Son in Law (battling brain cancer); 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); Tina Drapp (breast cancer); Annette (healing & strength) Pauline Parker’s cousin; Susan (liver cancer) co-worker of Chris Cotter; Pete (healing & strength) 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; Anthony Bartlein (heart transplant) father of Dena Guziewicz (our School

Secretary); **Scott Brenton** (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado’s fiancé; **Rick Weeks** (cancer treatment); **John Penn** (recovery from shoulder surgery).

**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>Sunday 4/20 6:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/20 8:30am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/20 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mark Olen	Craig Lau
<u>Readers</u>		Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>		Bob & Lynn Buzzell	Mike Huber
			Marty Taggatz
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

**Easter Breakfast - Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Our Youth Group is hosting an Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday following our Easter Sunrise Service and before our 8:30 and 10am Easter Sunday Worship Services. Breakfast is served from 7am-8:20am and 9:30-9:50am. **Please sign up in the church narthex or send an email to our church email address to let us know how many in your family are coming to: [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org).** A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Grace Youth Group for their trip to the LCMS National Youth Gathering. Thank you for your support!!!

**Public Hearing for Grace Lutheran Church - Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** We invite all members and supporters of Grace Lutheran Church and School to attend an important **Public Hearing** on **Monday, May 5th at 6:30pm** at the **Oak Creek Civic Center** (Lake Vista Room), located at **8040 S 6th St, Oak Creek, WI 53154**. This hearing concerns the **zoning approval for the new garage** on our school property. Your presence and support at the meeting will be greatly appreciated and will help us move forward with our plans to build this much-needed facility. **Please make plans to attend and show your support!**

Welcome to our new families who have recently joined Grace this past month: *Lori & Maya Hegarty, Michael Vlach, Carl Branch, Scott Brenton, Linda Maldonado, Bailey & Liam Miles, and Hope Grams*. We are so glad that you have joined Grace!!!

Your **First Quarter Giving Statements** are available to pick up in the church narthex. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for the ministries of Grace!!!



**Grace Youth Group Stock Sale!!!** What better investment can you make than giving our youth an opportunity to praise Jesus? In July, many of the high schoolers in our congregation will travel to New Orleans, LA, for the triennial LCMS National Youth Gathering. There, they will have the opportunity to worship with about 25,000 other

Lutherans from around the world. **How you can help:** 1.) *Buy stock in our youth during the month of April - Any amount is appreciated. (Special envelopes are available in the Narthex at church).* 2. *Pray for us while we travel and participate in the gathering.* 3. *Follow our adventures on Facebook and Instagram.* 4. *Join us after we get back for a stockholder's luncheon so we can share our experiences with you.* We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as they prepare for this life-changing event. **Thank you for being a blessing to our youth!**

**Grace PTLs is hosting their annual Panther Palooza on Friday May 16th.** This event is fun for the whole family and members of Grace Lutheran Church & ECC are welcome to join our School families for this event!!! We will have multiple bounce houses, a bubble station for the littles, games, prizes, food, even a DJ and glitter stencils! We are also hosting a silent auction during the event with some amazing things to bid on. This event will take place in the evening of May 16th.

**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 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!!!

**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.**

**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*.** **(PLEASE NOTE: ON EASTER SUNDAY WE WILL BE TAKING A BREAK FROM BIBLE CLASS AND WE WILL BE RESUMING ON SUNDAY APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>)**

"Perhaps as our culture seems to be increasingly more challenging, it may help to think of hope as the complete opposite of despair. Hope is not optional for the believer. Our hope is secure because, as we all say again, 'Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!'" *John Stonestreet – 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 "A Risen Christ and a Clean Room"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The risen Christ has folded Death up and put it in its place. Now Christ invites you to trust in Him and find place and purpose in His new creation. (John 20:5-7) 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 EASTER SUNDAY**

**Catechism:** Creed: Second Article

**Verse of the week:** 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, “*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 139

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 457 “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Resurrection of Our Lord—John 20:1-18

Monday— The Emmaus Disciples—Luke 24:13-35

Tuesday— The Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:36-49

Wednesday— The Resurrection Catch—John 21:1-14

Thursday— Jesus Reinstates Peter—John 21:15-25

Friday— St Mark, Evangelist—Mark 16:14-20

Saturday— Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Stewardship Minute “Go and Tell Christ Is Risen!”**

In 1 Corinthians 15, the Resurrection Chapter, the Apostle Paul writes, *“What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins...that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...”* (1 Corinthians 15: 3). Through Christ’s Resurrection, God assures us that we are forgiven and that we, too, will rise again. Surely this is the message of first importance that we as stewards of our Risen Lord and Savior will desire to pass on. Go and tell that Christ is risen!

*He is  
Risen*

**Prayer:** *Dear Lord, without Your gracious aid I would be forever in the depths, forever bound to sin, forever lost. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and life You have given me through Your Son, Christ, my Redeemer. Help me boldly go out and tell others that Christ is risen! In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**

**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.

Growing in Grace – April 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

General Offering	\$4,230.00	
On-Line Giving	\$932.00	
Missions	\$30.00	Attendance Lent Mid.- 33
Mortgage Fund	\$0.00	Attendance Sunday- 122
Portals of Prayer	\$5.00	Communed Sunday-73
Total:	\$5,197.00	

**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	4/20	6:00am 7:00am 8:30am 10:00am	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast Easter Festival Service Easter Festival Service
Monday	4/21	-----	-----
Tuesday	4/22	7:00am	Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	4/23	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	4/24	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	4/25	-----	-----
Saturday	4/26	8:00am	Rise & SonShine Bible Study
Sunday	4/27	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship Voter’s Meeting

## 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>
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		
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
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